**CHRISTIAN BRANDO ACTOR AND WELDER"**

I LIKED the idea of a holiday in Italy, I liked the money, I liked Carmine, he was good at convincing me and in reassuring my father ". For all these reasons, Christian Brando, son of Marlon Brando's first marriage to Anna Kashfi, spent ten weeks in Nardò to play Durante, Renata Fonte's killer. A belated acting debut, at 29. "So far not. I had never taken cinema proposals seriously and, living in Hollywood and calling myself Brando, many have happened to me. All ugly, heroes of violence or muscular studs who strip in pseudopornographic stories. And just because I live in Hollywood I have seen so many young people come and go, delude themselves and fail. And then until a few years ago the actors didn't like their children to do their job, they preferred to let them study, doctors, engineers, scientists. I didn't like studying and I got into a lot of trouble at the military academy too. So I went to work. "Waiter, chef specializing in Italian cuisine (" my scallops are fantastic "), Mexican and Indian, welder, tree pruner: these are just some of his jobs." I'm not a rebel and, I am, I am rebellious with cause. I worked to get the things I needed, because no one has ever given me anything ... No, not even my father ...Brando, the star, the myth, the legend does not interest me. Brando, my father, he is a good man, affectionate, kind, he cares about me, I think he loves me. He wanted to know everything about this film, he reassured himself and I think now he is proud that I found this job. Alone, as always. "If he talks about his father willingly, albeit with some hesitation, Christian Brando instead abruptly refuses any mention of his brothers, at least four from various mothers (" With them my father was different "), to his mother, in his adolescence, between boarding schools, fights, neuroses, court cases. "Never, never would I go back to my 15 years" he says dryly. The signs of a lonely and unhappy youth are in the sudden mood, in the melancholy sweetness of smile, in the boy's face that contrasts with age and with a strong and robust body. ("I'm taller than my father" he says happily), in need of reassuring presences. Like that of his friend Billy, a giant American with whom he has been working for six years for pruning trees, and who followed him to Nardò, putting on a policeman's uniform in the Nasca film. "Billy is the big brother I needed." With him Christian Brando laughs, jokes, relaxes, imitates Laurel and Hardy, who are his favorite actors. And, with Billy, he will continue the adventure of cinema: "I will no longer do bad and destructive roles. With Billy we are writing a beautiful script about friendship, the values of life and nature, set in the South Pacific where we always go fishing. It will be called Brothers. But I don't know how long I will continue in the cinema. My dream is a big welding shop. I will be able to create anything, even an airplane. "

by our correspondent MARIA PIA FUSCO

Italian Newspaper:

la Repubblica.it August 19, 1987

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**A cine debuttante called Brando**

**CANNES**

There was a boy-actor like this yesterday afternoon, not handsome but bearer of a great spectacular name: Christian Brando, son of Marlon Brando, Cine debut many or almost, interpreter with Lina Sastri and Fernando Rey of an Italian film directed by Sergio Nasca , The Fonte case, taken from the southern real black chronicle, the story of a woman candidate for public office killed by another candidate who did not want rivals.

In 1972 Christian, was an anorexic boy, was next to or around his father when in 1971 he was shooting Bernardo Bertolucci's Last Tango in Paris. And Dad placed saucers, pietans, nuggets, morsels in every corner of the house: "Sooner or later he will eat something".

In CANNES festival press conference the young Brando seems nervous, and he has always been: As a boy, when he was in an apartment in Paris with his father who was shooting the 1972 film The Last Tango, he was anorexic, he refused food;  very worried. His father Marlon Brando prepared dozens of small plates with morsels to eat placing them in every corner of the house, saying "Sooner or later he will eat something". Then, at the end of the day he was happy if, when making a night check-up, he discovered that his son had eaten a cheese and an olive, or half a banana.

(La Stampa 1987)

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# Brando junior: un bravo giardiniere

Il medesimo fatidico caso ha sospinto a Cannes, per il lancio del film italiano *La posta in gioco* di Sergio Nasca, Christian Brando figlio di Brando e di Anna Kashfi, la prima moglie oriunda indiana. Un giovanotto semplice e malinconico, giunto a 29 anni senza grilli per il capo, quasi stupito per la parte di rilievo nella rievocazione del caso Renata Fonte, l'assessore repubblicana di Nardò che venne uccisa per gelosia da un rivale di partito. Da oggi le riprese sui luoghi dei fatti, con i colpevoli condannati a una montagna di ergastoli, in attesa del giudizio d'appello.

*«Mi hanno spiegato che si tratta di una storia di gelosia e di politica, con interpreti noti come Lina Sastri e Fernando Rey. Mi hanno anche dato un biglietto di aereo ed eccomi qui».*

E' possibile approdare al cinema senza una minima predisposizione, senza un qualche interesse?

*«Possibile. Devo tutto a Laura Fuino, l'attrice siculo-americana che aveva già firmato per* La posta in gioco. *Aveva con sé una mia fotografia e Carmine De Benedittis, il produttore, ha detto che quello era il killer ideale per la sua storia. Non sapeva nemmeno che esistessi. Ripeto: eccomi qui».*

Finora che ne pensava del cinema?

*«Attraverso mio padre ho conosciuto gli aspetti privati di questo fenomeno, ieri da bambino e oggi da adulto. Ma solo — come si dice? — di riflesso».*

Non le è mai capitato per le mani un copione?

*«M'inondavano di copioni, ma forse speravano che capitassero in altre mani».*

Di che cosa si occupava in America?

*«Di potatura degli alberi. A Hollywood e in particolare a Beverly Hills».*

Che cos'ha detto suo padre quando ha saputo la notizia?

*«Oh, yeaa».*

**Piero Perona**

**Brando Junior: an interview in Stampa newspaper 1987.**

Christian Brando, son of Marlon Brando and Anna Kashfi (the first wife of Indian descent), came to Cannes for the promotion of the Italian film La posta in gioco by Sergio Nasca. A simple and melancholic young man, Christian had reached the age of 29 without any lofty ambitions, seemingly surprised by his prominent role in the retelling of the case of Renata Fonte, a Republican councilwoman from Nardò who was murdered out of jealousy by a political rival.

Shooting began on the real locations of the crime, where the guilty parties had already been sentenced to multiple life terms, awaiting an appeal judgment.

“They explained to me that it’s a story of jealousy and politics, with well-known actors like Lina Sastri and Fernando Rey. They also gave me a plane ticket, and here I am,” Christian said.

Was it possible to enter the world of cinema with no particular inclination or interest?

“Possible. I owe it all to Laura Fuino, the Italian-American actress who had already signed on for La posta in gioco. She had a photo of me, and Carmine De Benedittis, the producer, said I was the ideal killer for the story. He didn’t even know I existed. And here I am again.”

What were his previous thoughts on cinema?

“Through my father, I experienced the private aspects of this phenomenon—yesterday as a child, and today as an adult. But only—how do you say it?—indirectly.”

Had he ever come across a script before?

“They inundated me with scripts, but I think they hoped someone else would pick them up.”

What did he do in America before this?

“I pruned trees. In Hollywood, and especially in Beverly Hills.”

What did his father say when he heard the news?

“Oh, yeah,” Christian said.

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**Brando Junior: A Skilled Gardener**

The same fateful circumstances brought Christian Brando to Cannes for the launch of the Italian film La posta in gioco by Sergio Nasca. Christian, the son of Marlon Brando and Anna Kashfi (his first wife of Indian origin), is a simple and melancholic young man, now 29 years old, without grand ambitions, almost surprised by the prominent role he was given in the recounting of the Renata Fonte case—a Republican councilwoman from Nardò who was killed out of jealousy by a political rival.

Filming on the actual locations of the events begins today, with the guilty parties sentenced to multiple life imprisonments, awaiting appeal.
"They explained to me that it’s a story of jealousy and politics, with well-known actors like Lina Sastri and Fernando Rey. They also gave me a plane ticket, and here I am."

Is it possible to enter the film industry without any prior inclination or interest?
"It’s possible. I owe everything to Laura Fuino, the Italian-American actress who had already signed on for La posta in gioco. She had a photograph of me, and Carmine De Benedittis, the producer, said I was the ideal killer for his story. He didn’t even know I existed. I repeat: here I am."

What was your view of cinema until now?
"Through my father, I got to know the private aspects of this phenomenon—first as a child and now as an adult. But only—how do you say it?—indirectly."

Have you ever been offered a script before?
"They used to flood me with scripts, but perhaps they were hoping they'd end up in someone else's hands."

What were you doing in America?
"Tree trimming. In Hollywood and especially in Beverly Hills."

What did your father say when he found out about the news?
"Oh, yeah."

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# Nome, Brando. Professione, apprendista divo



Christian Brando: «Mio padre? Per me non è un mito, è un amico»

NARDO' — Rossetto rosa e fucsia sulle labbra, sul naso, sulle guance; grossi cerchi neri intorno agli occhi; il torace nudo, il tatuaggio con il nome sul muscolo del braccio destro. Christian Brando, 28 anni, figlio del mito Marlon e della moglie indiana Anna Kashfi, si riposa nella stanza del suo albergo sul mare, a pochi passi dalla spiaggia di Santa Maria al Bagno, durante una pausa della lavorazione.

In camera con lui assistono all'incontro con i giornalisti, stesi sui letti tra birre e sigarette, il migliore amico Bill Cable e la più recente conoscenza Claudia Sabbatini, 22 anni, romana. Il primo ha un piccolissimo ruolo nel film ed è arrivato fin qui per fare compagnia a Christian; la seconda, conosciuta nella capitale pochi giorni fa, è diventata in poche ore la grande passione del giovane attore. Brando ha ottenuto per lei qualche battuta nella pellicola, è convinto che sia un gran talento da scoprire e non passa minuto senza che ne ripeta le lodi.

Per la prima volta davanti alla macchina da presa, nei panni del killer di Renata Fonte, il figlio di Marlon il grande spiega che recitare è la cosa più semplice del mondo. Dice: «*Cinema per me vuol dire divertimento, essere me stesso, senza sentirmi teso e preoccupato come invece succede a tanti attori. Non ho avuto alcun problema nell'affrontare questa nuova esperienza, mi è piaciuta e credo che forse continuerò a fare cinema*».

Secondo Christian Brando il suo personaggio, il killer dalla mano ferma, «*è un uomo che non ama la vita, uno che vuole diventare importante, ma che ha scelto la strada sbagliata per esserlo*».

Pause, grandi risate e poi sguardi profondi, diritti negli occhi dell'interlocutore: «*Non ho problemi a parlare di mio padre: non l'ho mai considerato un mito, per me è un amico, un uomo in carne ed ossa, una persona con cui sto bene e con cui è bello passare il tempo*». Quando i due Brando sono insieme si confidano i loro problemi con le donne, giocano a scacchi, parlano di politica e di mille altri argomenti. Non è difficile avere un genitore così importante, dice Christian raccontando la sua vita semplice: «*A Los Angeles dirigo una ditta che si occupa di potatura degli alberi. Nel tempo libero vado a pescare, sto con i miei amici, suono la chitarra nella mia band che fa musica rock e leggo libri che mi interessano come questo sull'intervento americano in Salvador*».

Qual è la cosa che conta di più nella vita di Christian Brando? «*Essere uno spermatozoo*», risponde ridendo questo grosso ragazzo dalla pelle scura. Poi diventa serio: «*La cosa più importante è passare il tempo con le persone che amo*». f. c.

**Name: Brando. Profession: Aspiring Star**

Nardò — Pink lipstick on his lips, fuchsia on his cheeks and nose; dark circles drawn around his eyes; a bare chest; and a tattoo with his name on his right arm. Christian Brando, 28, son of the late Marlon and Indian actress Anna Kashfi, is resting in his seaside hotel room near Santa Maria al Bagno, taking a break from filming.

He spends his days laughing with his friends on set. His best friend is Bill Cable, his most recent acquaintance is Claudia Sabbetini, 23, from Rome. She has a small role in the movie and came here to keep Christian company.

“This new experience has been enjoyable,” he says, “and I think maybe I’ll keep making films.”

According to Christian Brando, his character — a hitman — is “a man who doesn’t love life, who doesn’t want to become important, but who has chosen the wrong path to be one.”

There are long pauses, bursts of laughter, and deep looks straight into the interviewer’s eyes. “I have no problem talking about my father,” Christian says. “I’ve never considered him a legend. To me, he’s a friend, a real man of flesh and blood, someone with his own flaws.”

Christian Brando lives a simple life. “In Los Angeles, I run a small company that does tree-trimming. In my free time, I go fishing with friends, play guitar in my rock band, and read books that interest me — like this one about American intervention in El Salvador.”

What’s the most important thing in Christian Brando’s life? He laughs: “To be a breeder!” Then, becoming serious again, he adds: “The most important thing is spending time with the people I love.”

( La Stampa 1987)

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**WORLD WIDE – Young Brando’s Battle for an Identity**
*Escape from “Godfather”*
By **Ronald Singleton** in Rome

At 28, **Christian Brando** is an actor with a lot of catching up to do. When his father was that age, he was already well on his way to becoming a giant of the cinema, with unforgettable performances such as *On the Waterfront*.

But Brando Jr., who is just finishing his first movie, has had to battle against the legendary iron will of his patriarchal father, **Marlon Brando**—and he now believes he has won.

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WORLD WIDE on young Brando's battle for an identity

# Escape from Godfather

From RONALD SINGLETON in Rome

**AT 28, Christian Brando is an actor with a lot of catching up to do.**

When his father was that age he was already well on the way to becoming a giant figure of the cinema with such unforgettable performances as On The Waterfront.

But Brando Jnr, who is just finishing his first movie, has had to battle against the legendary iron will of patriarchal Marlon Brando — and believes that now, he has won.

'I have the greatest respect for my father,' he said in the sun-baked Italian town of Apulia, where he is filming. 'But I've overcome the complex of being an artist's son.

'I have never wanted to act before. I was married for eight years and now live alone. I thought: "Why not have a go?" I was very nervous as a boy. I cured myself.'

When he was just 13 Christian became Hollywood's most celebrated 'love tug' child — both Marlon and his mother, Irish-Indian Anna Kashfi fought for him.

And when Brando Snr heard this year that producer Carmine De Benedettis had asked him

## FIRST ROLE FOR SON OF MOVIE LEGEND

to make a film he asked in true Godfather tradition: 'Who is this Italian who's dragging my son away to Italy?'

From his home on a Pacific atoll, Marlon has telephoned Christian every day, offering unsolicited advice which has infuriated him.

'Why don't you ask for more money?' his father asked, or: 'They should have signed the contract in Hollywood and not Italy. See about it.'

'Godammit! Why doesn't he leave me alone?' his son would storm. 'I'm going to be thrown out of the film if this goes on.'

Christian Brando: Setting out on a film career

Young Marlon: Moody

But that hasn't happened and the young Brando has impressed top director Sergio Nasca.

In the movie he plays a killer — the real-life story of a young man harrassed by his father, who murdered to 'establish' himself.

**WORLD WIDE on young Brando's battle for an identity role for Brando Jr.**

Christian Brando is setting out on a film career. Speaking in the sun-baked town where he is filming, he addressed the complex reality of being an artist's son:

"I have never wanted to act before. I was married for eight years and now live alone. I thought: 'Why not have a go?'
I was very nervous as a boy. I cured myself.

When he was just 13, Christian became Hollywood's most talked-about "tug-of-love" child, as both his father, Marlon, and his mother, **Anna Kashfi**, fought for custody.

And when Brando Sr. heard this year that producer **Carmine De Benedettis** had asked Christian to make a film, he reportedly reacted in true *Godfather* fashion:

"Who is this Italian who's dragging my son away to Italy?"

From his home on a Pacific atoll, Marlon has been telephoning Christian every day, offering unsolicited advice—which has infuriated him:

"They should have signed the contract in Hollywood, not Italy. See about it."

Christian's response"Goddammit! Why doesn't he leave me alone? I'm going to be thrown out of the film if this goes on."

But that hasn't happened. The young Brando has impressed top director **Sergio Nasca**.

In the film, he plays a killer in the real-life story of a troubled young man who ultimately destroyed himself.

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**FIRST ROLE FOR SON OF MOVIE LEGEND**

Los Angeles Times

NARDO, Italy .

Marion Brando was not thrilled about offspring Christian following in his acting footsteps. And Christian, 29, stayed away from the cameras, working as a Beverly Hills, Calif., tree surgeon - until now.

He has been in the village of Nardo, on the heel of Italy and heavy Cosa Nostra territory, playing a hit man in an Italian thriller called Up for Grabs. It is his first movie part.

"Pops was more worried about me getting screwed for money than about the script or the role," said the son of Brando by former wife Anna Kashfi. "But now he has wished me luck."

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# Movie role for Brando Jr.

**Los Angeles Times**

**NARDO, Italy — For years, Marlon Brando was not thrilled about offspring Christian following in his acting footsteps. And Christian, 29, stayed away from the cameras, working as a Beverly Hills, Calif., tree surgeon — until now.**

**He has been in the village of Nardo, on the heel of Italy and heavy Cosa Nostra territory, playing a hit man in an Italian thriller called Up for Grabs. It is his first movie part.**

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**Christian Brando Tells of Remorse and Hopes : Hearing: Courthouse is a painfully familiar locale for actor's son on eve of sentencing for manslaughter.**

By LOIS TIMNICK Feb. 26, 1991 12 AM PT

It was there that his parents repeatedly fought over him--legally, physically and very publicly--throughout more than a decade. And it was the fallout from those battles, his lawyers contend, that has led Christian Brando and his actor father back to the courthouse to answer for a killing that is the product of those traumatic years.

He pleaded guilty last month to voluntary manslaughter in the May 17 shooting death of his half sister's Tahitian lover, Dag Drollet, and faces up to 16 years in prison. The prosecution has asked for the maximum sentence while Brando's lawyers and a probation officer have asked for leniency.

"I did plead to a manslaughter," he said. "It's a tragedy and I do feel bad. If I could give my life to have him come back, I'd do it, but there's nothing I can do. I have to live with this for the rest of my life, I wake up with it and go to sleep with it.

"But are people going to spit on me all the time? Can't I (just) go to jail? Is that OK?" he said, annoyed by the unrelenting attention that has surrounded him.

During the two-hour interview, the 32-year-old welder spoke of his "weird and spaced-out" family, the tragic events of the shooting, his struggle with substance abuse and his hopes for the future. He even expressed doubts about his half sister's allegations that Drollet had beaten her.

The picture of Christian Brando that emerges is a curious mix of sadness and bravado that led a defense investigator to call him "a stray puppy with machismo."

The Los Angeles Times
26 Feb 1991, Tue · Page 399

# Christian Brando Tells of Remorse and Hopes

**■ Hearing:** Courthouse is a painfully familiar locale for actor's son on eve of sentencing for manslaughter.

By LOIS TIMNICK
TIMES STAFF WRITER

When Marlon Brando's son walks into the Santa Monica courthouse today, the surroundings will be painfully familiar, he says. "I've been coming through those doors since I was a kid."

It was there that his parents repeatedly fought over him—legally, physically and very publicly—throughout more than a decade. And it was the fallout from those battles, his lawyers contend, that has led Christian Brando and his actor father back to the courthouse to answer for a killing that is the product of those traumatic years.

"I'm nervous, I'm scared to death. But I'm not trying to get out of anything—I already said 'guilty,'" a remorseful and self-effacing Brando said in an interview with The Times on the eve of today's sentencing hearing.

He pleaded guilty last month to voluntary manslaughter in the May 17 shooting death of his half sister's Tahitian lover, Dag Drollet, and faces up to 16 years in prison. The prosecution has asked for the maximum sentence while Brando's lawyers and a probation officer have asked for leniency.

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The picture of Christian Brando that emerges is a curious mix of sadness and bravado that led a defense investigator to call him "a stray puppy with machismo."

His has been a Hollywood life with the glitter dusted off, a life gone wrong at crucial junctures, a life he is now trying to hold together as he prepares himself for years behind bars.

"He is a tempestuous kid from a tempestuous family, frustrated and angry about his life," said his psychiatrist, Dr. Saul Faerstein. "But there is not a particle of antisocial attitudes and behavior which threatens society."

Brando's lawyer refused to allow him to answer questions about prosecution allegations of previous violent incidents, saying only: "We do not acknowledge them."

Faerstein said that Brando, once an inquisitive and alert child, has been damaged emotionally and intellectually by his upbringing and chronic substance abuse. Despite the material advantages conferred by the Brando name, the psychiatrist said, neither parent provided "a stable, protective, safe, emotional environment for Christian to grow up in. . . ."

In recent weeks, while awaiting the beginning of his sentencing hearing, the 10th-grade dropout has been juggling several welding jobs and reporting to County Jail for random drug tests, although he acknowledged that after he is sentenced "it won't matter anymore."

Brando said his daily routine consists of "eat, sleep, go to work and that's it." He said he values good friends more than ever because some presumed pals tried to exploit his crime by selling their stories.

Once he serves whatever sentence is imposed, Brando said, he wants to resume a life of anonymity that will include fishing trips, Dodger games and Alcoholics Anonymous meetings.

Brando said he cannot forget his chaotic youthful years—the court fights, the abductions by one or the other parent, the

Please see BRANDO, B

LARRY BESSEL / Los Angeles Times
Christian Brando stands beside his welding truck as sentencing hearing approaches.

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Brando said he cannot forget his chaotic youthful years--the court fights, the abductions by one or the other parent, the nannies and maids who reared him.

“I grew up with an extremely violent mother (actress Anna Kashfi). She drank and we had a lot of problems,” Brando said, adding that he has not spoken with her for about three years. The Brandos were divorced before their only child learned to walk.

Marlon Brando was granted permanent custody of Christian when he was 13, about the time that he boy started drinking and taking large doses of various drugs, including LSD. “But I didn’t do needles and stuff,” he said.

“My whole family, except for my father, is alcoholic,” he said. “I’ve been doing pretty good, although I miss coming home and having a few beers.”

He said he has been sober now for nine months and attends AA meetings several times a week in West Hollywood, near the modest apartment he shares with his girlfriend.

Asked whether his relationship with his father has changed because of the shooting, Christian said: “No. He’s been helping me through this, supporting me as a friend. . . . He was there for me. . . . ‘And who am I? I’m nobody.”

The elder Brando put up his hilltop estate, where the shooting occured, as collateral for his son’s bail and is paying for his defense.

“My family’s so weird and spaced out. We’d have new additions all the time. Like I’d sit down at the table with all these strange people and say, ‘Who are you?’ ”

Marlon Brando has nine children by four women.

Christian went to live with his father but he was  expected to earn their keep. “I worked summers at dad’s hotel (in Tahiti) and I’d have to pay my own plane tickets. If I didn’t clean up the yard, I didn’t get dinner.

For three years, Christian worked in Alaska, piloting a barge for a fish processor during the summers. In winter, he said, he returned to a cabin near Mt. St. Helens in Washington and “froze,” living on unemployment checks and odd jobs.

After returning home to Los Angeles, he became a tree-trimmer, a vocation ended by a serious fall. Then, about eight years ago, he found welding, a trade he learned at a Downey technical school that makes him beam. Structural steel welding. Pipes. Commercial buildings and chemical plants. Gates. Furniture.

Welding is satisfying, he said, because “I get to be the boss. I’m in control of the situation.”

Almost every day, Brando is seen dressed in jeans and work boots. He said being the son of a celebrity is a hindrance. He said he avoids invoking the Brando name or image.

Christian was working in construction under a fake name at the time of his death.

His single acting venture came when he was recruited for a part in a movie in Italy. Not knowing that it was an attempt to exploit the Brando name, he said, “I went.” The film, he said, was “pretty awful.”

But it was last May 17 that Brando’s life bottomed out when his half sister confided that her lover, the father of her unborn child, had been beating her. She was crying, and Brando had already downed a six-pack of malt liquor and was starting in on hard liquor.

“She went off on this bizarre tangent,” Brando said, “she kinda like got me going. I didn’t stop to think.” Knowing what he now knows of Cheyenne Brando’s fragile mental state, he questions whether she was ever beaten by Drollet. “I feel like a complete chump” for believing her, he said.

At his father’s estate on Mulholland Drive, Brando burst in on Drollet, pointed a gun at him and shouted, “Lookit, don’t do that anymore!” Brando said that as he turned to leave, his arm still outstretched, Drollet tried to grab the gun and it went off.

“I did not go into that room to kill Dag Drollet,” said Brando, adding that he had met the 26-year-old man for the first time only hours earlier. “I just wanted to scare him.

“I just sat there and watched the life go out of this guy.”

(LA times 1991)

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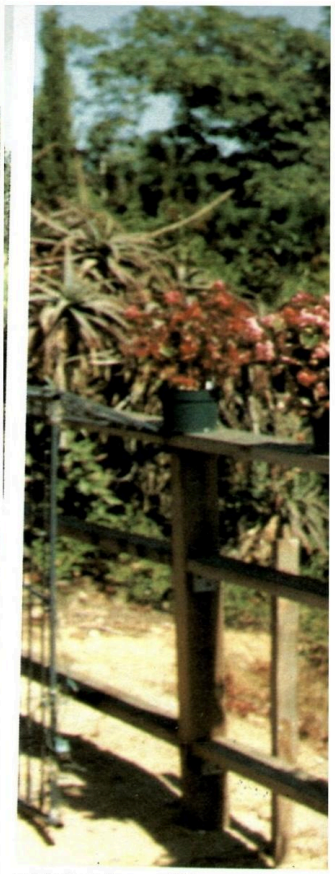
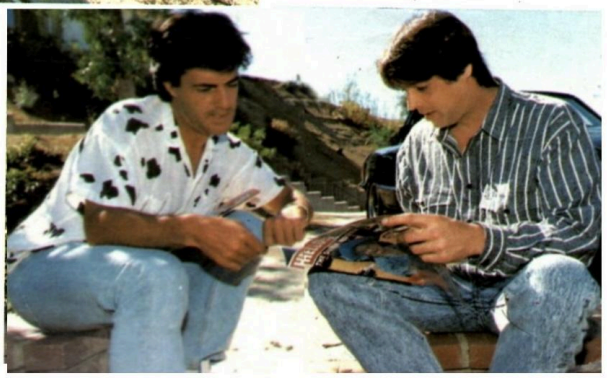


**might have been a different person had you been brought up in a more normal family?**
"I don't know. It was hard growing up with parents who didn't like each other, but those days are past, we have to look to the future."

**How do you feel about what's happened?**
"Terrible. It's a horrible thing."
**Have you had the opportunity to express your feelings to Dag's family yet?**
"No. They don't want to listen to me. I think Mr Drollet knows how much his terrible tragedy has affected me. Maybe with time they will want to hear what I have to say. They will have Cheyenne and Dag's daughter."
**Will the Drollett family have custody of Tuki then?**
"I don't know."
**Have you spoken to Cheyenne since the night of the tragedy?**
"No she's not available to speak to: I don't now where she is right now."
**Do you hope for a reconciliation in the future?**
"Yes, I do. With time, who knows ..."
**What is your mother's reaction to what's happened?**
"She gives me her support but at the same time, not surprisingly, she's very scared."
**Does she blame Marlon for what's happened?**
"No. She has her own opinion. She and my father don't get along but beyond that I don't know anything as we don't talk about it."
**You remember your parents' confrontations when they were fighting for custody of you. Do you think you**



**CHRISTIAN BRANDO: AT HOME WITH HIS GIRLFRIEND LAURENE LANDON"**

**"Speaking for the first time since his release on bail"**

HELLO! (UK Edition)Issue No:** 121October 13, 1990. By Jose De Vega.

**Q: How do you feel about what's happened?**

**Christian:** "Terrible. It’s a horrible thing."

**Q: Have you had the opportunity to express your feelings to Dag’s family yet?**

**Christian:** "No. They don’t want to listen to me. I think Mr Drollet knows how much this terrible tragedy has affected me. Maybe with time they will want to hear what I have to say. They will have Cheyenne and Dag’s daughter."

**Q: Will the Drollet family have custody of Tuki then?**

**Christian:** "I don’t know."

**Q: Have you spoken to Cheyenne since the night of the tragedy?**

**Christian:** "No she’s not available to speak to; I don’t know where she is right now."

**Q: Do you hope for a reconciliation in the future?**

**Christian:** "Yes, I do. With time, who knows..."

**Q: What is your mother’s reaction to what’s happened?**

**Christian:** "She gives me her support but at the same time, not surprisingly, she’s very scared."

**Q: Does she blame Marlon for what’s happened?**

**Christian:** "No. She has her own opinion. She and my father don’t get along but beyond that I don’t know anything as we don’t talk about it."

**Q: You remember your parents’ confrontations when they were fighting for custody of you. Do you think you might have been a different person had you been brought up in a more normal family?**

**Christian:** "I don’t know. It was hard growing up with parents who didn’t like each other, but those days are past, we have to look to the future."

**Q: Is public opinion more favourable towards you since you’re the son of a famous actor?**

**Christian:** "It’s the total opposite. I am treated worse than anyone and I’m painted much blacker than I really am. Everyone seems to think I’m some sort of Jack the Ripper, a throat slitter, I’m nothing like that."

**Q: Tell us then, what Christian Brando is really like.**

**Christian:** "I’m quite a cheerful person... hardworking, I suppose. I like anonymity and I want my life to be private. I’m not an actor — my father’s the actor, not me. I tried to be an actor once but I wasn’t then, and I’m still not sufficiently interested in it. My father’s the only one in the family who’s an actor: the rest of us aren’t interested."

**Q: Laurene, what do you think Christian is like?**

**Laurene:** "He’s very different to the picture that’s been painted of him. Christian is a very altruistic person. He’s a man of noble thoughts and generous spirit. He loves children and animals and he’s the sort of person who wants to help others without thought of anything in return."

"He’s never used his name to get anywhere and he’s always willing to offer his help to anyone who needs it. Even here in this house, homeless people come to find shelter, as there aren’t any security fences, but he would never throw them out. He’s a good person. People don’t know that and they should..."

**Q: What was it that first attracted you to Christian?**

**Laurene:** "What first struck me was how unspoilt he was. Being the son of who he is, I expected someone quite different. Chris is very sincere and that’s probably what I like most about him. He says what he feels and not what he’s expected to say. He never lies and he’s certainly never lied to me."

**Q: Are you planning on getting married?**

**Christian:** "Yes, Chris and I want to get married when all this has been sorted out."

**Q: Even if you have to go back to prison, Christian?**

**Christian:** "I hope I won’t have to go back to jail, but if I have to then of course we’ll have to wait. At the moment, aren't really making concrete plans. All we know is that we want to marry as soon as we can and have a family."

**Q: But isn’t it inevitable that you will have to go back to prison — if only for the possession of illegal arms?**

**Christian:** "But nobody has heard my side of the story yet. I always thought the law said ‘innocent until proven guilty’ and everyone’s been treating me as if I’m guilty — unless I can prove myself innocent. I have no control over it all, but I’m longing to take that stand to give my side..."

**Q: What were the months you spent in jail like?**

**Christian:** "It’s a horrible place... I didn’t get any special treatment — everyone is treated more or less the same, and you soon realise that you can’t step out of line or say anything because it can be held against you. They can put you in places where you are in danger... people often die in jail. Of course I was very frightened."

**Q: Your father has been behind you throughout the last few months. Did you ever doubt his support?**

**Christian:** "No, never, and since my release, we’ve spoken often on the phone. You see it all happened in his house but not in the way it has been made to appear. The situation was not one of hate and pain — it was a domestic situation..." (Laurene interrupted the conversation here, reminding Christian that the case could not be discussed outside of court).

**Q: What happened exactly with regard to the £6 million bail requirement?**

**Christian:** "It was my decision to refuse it. My father wanted to pay it but I told him that I wouldn't have him putting down that sort of money — that I would prefer to stay locked up. Then they reduced the price of bail."

**Q: You have been accused of being violent. Do you consider yourself a violent person?**

**Christian:** "No, of course not. I never get into fights... I get angry like anyone but... who has said that?"

**Q: Your ex-wife has been reported as saying that you even pointed a gun at her mother?**

**Christian:** "That isn't true."

**Q: But why should she make it up when she says she's on your side and has even said she wants to get back together with you?**

**Christian:** "She said that? I don't know — it doesn't make any sense. Maybe she would do it for money. Papers want to sell more copies and she would say those things for money and through jealousy."

**Laurene:** "That's the real reason. When she and Chris got divorced and I was going out with him, she went mad and couldn't stand it."

**Christian:** "People can say what they like. They have called me just about everything but it doesn't matter to me. It hurts of course when people say something that isn't true, but what can I do?"

**Q: Christian, you've pleaded 'not guilty'. Would you do what you did again?**

**Christian:** "No, no... but to start with, I didn't do anything. I've done nothing wrong. It was an accident."

**Laurene:** "Please Christian, you can't talk about it."

**Q: And the guns? If you hadn't been in possession of them, it wouldn't have happened.**

**Christian:** "No. Probably not. I never want to be anywhere near a gun again in my life."

**Q: How much do you value Laurene's support throughout the last few months?**

**Christian:** "I'm happy that she's been here and both of us are praying that everything sorts itself out."

### **Captions & Side Notes:**

**Page 78:**

"The home where Christian used to live before the shooting in May is cleared of furniture and is up for rent (above). Outside in the garden, stands the huge iron dragon he made (below

and far right). The dragon, which is the Egyptian symbol of peace, stands on a three-ton cement base, took him over a month to construct, and is soldered with messages of peace."

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EL HIJO DEL GRAN ACTOR DE HOLLYWOOD ESTUVO EN BARCELONA

# CHRISTIAN BRANDO: «SOLO ME PAREZCO A MI PADRE POR MI AFICION A LAS MUJERES»

RISTIAN Brando, hijo mayor ... Marlon, llegó a Barcelona ... pasado miércoles, 21 de ... procedente de Los Angeles, ...ve, para grabar una entre... el programa "La parada", ... María Bachs, en la televi... dinámica TV3. Era su primera ... nuestro país y poco nos po... sobre sus impresiones. ...ne tenido tiempo de dormir y ... dijo. Había que recuperarse ... estas horas de vuelo, del ...bio de horario, ese impacto so... la mente y sobre el cuerpo.

...alizaba la década de los 50, du... el rodaje de "Rebelión a bor... el actor consagrado conoció a ... tahitiana de espléndida belleza, ... se llamaba Tarita y antes de un ... daría a luz a un precioso bebé al ... pondrían por nombre Christian. ...istian Brando.

*La verdad es que no me veo de...iado con mi padre* –confiesa Christian, 31 años después–, *...o se puede decir que mantene... unas muy buenas relaciones. ...nos amigos, le gusta que me de... a lo que me dedico, e incluso ...da consejos.*

¿Cuáles son esos consejos?

*Gana más dinero, has de pedir ...cho más dinero, eso es lo que me ...* –y se ríe, Christian, pero no bro... Todos sabemos el poco respe... que le inspira la profesión a su pa... *"este nido de buitres"*, como de... a Hollywood.

¿Crees que el ser hijo de un mito ...matográfico como tu padre te ha ...tado mucho en tu vida, en tu ca...rrera profesional, positiva o negativamente?

*–En mi vida sin duda; de no ser hijo de Marlon Brando sería otra persona. Pero de todas formas, siempre he hecho mi vida bastante alejado de él. En cuanto a mi carrera de actor, que tampoco es tan importante, el hecho es que en Hollywood nadie te da nada por nada, no importa de quién seas hijo. Ellos quieren resultados. Si les gusta lo que haces te cogen y si no, no. Eso es lo que hay.*

Christian se gana la vida también tocando la guitarra con el grupo de rock "L.A. Extremes" en varios "night clubs" de su ciudad, la misma que da nombre al grupo (Los Angeles). Y esto viene siendo así desde hace dos años.

*–El grupo nació en 1988* –explica– *y ahora estamos a punto de sacar nuestro primer disco* –explica– *Se trata de un grupo pequeño, local, sin muchas ambiciones. A lo que más me dedico, lo que más llena mi tiempo y a mí mismo* –explica– *es la escultura. Me paso las horas muertas con eso. Son esculturas abstractas, hechas en metal, cualquier cosa, desde adornos para edificios, motivos de decoración, en fin, lo que sea. Incluso he vendido algunas, pero no es ese mi objetivo, de momento. A mí lo que me gusta es quedármelas. Soy un auténtico coleccionista de mis propias obras.*

–¿En qué te pareces a tu padre?

*–En pocas cosas, la verdad. El es mi padre, sí, pero creo que no tenemos muchas cosas en común. Bueno, sí, quizás una cosa: que a los dos nos gustan mucho las mujeres* –ríe, pero no bromea, no– *Y algo más, si ahora que lo pienso: las motos, hacer moto cross, es algo con lo que disfruto mucho, al igual que él.*

–Tu padre se ha mostrado muchas veces como un activo militante por los derechos humanos, concretamente con la causa de los indios americanos. ¿Tienes tú alguna postura al respecto, o en temas parecidos?

*–Por supuesto, tengo también mis ideas y también tomo parte en estos temas, porque son muchas las barbaridades que he visto, gente viviendo en unas condiciones de pura calamidad, y concretamente en el caso de los indios, a los que se les ha robado todo, las tierras, la comida, su mundo y hasta su propia identidad en muchos casos. Son cosas ante las que hay que tomar posición. Pero ya se sabe que no basta con denunciarlas.*

Llegada la hora de despedirnos, Christian Brando se levanta de su asiento (juraría que ya se empiezan a apreciar unos ligeros michelines), amable y cálido, cansado, es más, acribillado por las luces de los flashes fotográficos (*"tengo una especie de alergia o algo así, me ciegan"*. Mala cosa para un actor). Y se va. Vuelve a sus cosas, este hombre polifacético: *"No soy nada especial* –dice– *En Hollywood todo es así, nadie se dedica sólo a actuar, hay que buscarse la vida de mil maneras.*

Texto y foto: **MARIE MORALES**



THE SON OF THE GREAT HOLLYWOOD ACTOR WAS IN BARCELONA

CHRISTIAN BRANDO: “I ONLY RESEMBLE MY FATHER IN MY TASTE FOR WOMEN.”

Christian Brando, eldest son of Marlon, arrived in Barcelona last Wednesday, October 21, from Los Angeles to record an interview for the program “La Parada” with María Bachs, broadcast on TV3. It was his first visit to our city.

“I haven’t had time to sleep,” he said. “I had to recover from all those flight hours, the jet lag — that shock to the mind and body.”

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His father, Marlon Brando, marked the 1950s as one of the most celebrated actors of his generation. During the filming of Mutiny on the Bounty, he met a beautiful Tahitian woman named Tarita. A year later, she gave birth to a lovely baby boy they named Christian.

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Do you think being the son of a film legend has affected your life — for better or worse?

“Without a doubt, if I weren’t Marlon Brando’s son, my life would be completely different. But even so, I’ve always tried to live my life away from all that,” he says. “As for my acting career, it’s not something that important to me. In Hollywood, no one gives you anything for free, no matter who your father is. They only care about results. If they like what you do, they hire you; if not, they don’t. That’s just how it is.”

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Christian also earns a living playing guitar with his rock group L.A. Extremes in several nightclubs in Los Angeles — the city that gave the band its name.

“The band was formed in 1988,” he explains, “and now we’re about to release our first album. It’s a small, local group without big ambitions.”

“What I really dedicate myself to, what truly fills my time and fulfills me,” he continues, “is sculpture. I spend endless hours on it. They’re abstract sculptures made of metal — anything from building ornaments to decorative pieces. I’ve even sold a few, but that’s not my main goal. What I love is keeping them. I’m a real collector of my own work.”

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In what ways do you resemble your father?

“In very few, honestly,” he admits. “He’s my father, yes, but I don’t think we have that much in common. Well… maybe one thing: we both really like women,” he laughs — though he isn’t joking.

“Ah, and now that I think of it, motorcycles. I love motocross; it’s something I really enjoy, just like him.”

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Your father has often been an active advocate for human rights, especially for the Native American cause. Do you share any similar convictions?

“Of course. I have my own ideas and I get involved in these issues too, because I’ve seen so many atrocities — people living in pure misery. In particular, the Native Americans: everything has been taken from them — their lands, their food, their world, even their identity. These are things one must take a stand against. But as we know, it’s not enough just to denounce them.”

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When the time came to say goodbye, Christian Brando stood up from his seat (you could already notice a few belly  beginning to appear). Friendly and warm, though visibly tired — more than that, actually — he was being bombarded by the flashes of photographers.

“I’ve got some sort of allergy or something; the flashes blind me — a bad thing for an actor,” he jokes.

When it’s time to say goodbye, Christian Brando gets up from his seat (you can already notice a bit of a belly). He is kind and warm, yet tired — actually exhausted — and bombarded by the flashes of photographers. “I have some sort of allergy or something; they blind me. A bad thing for an actor,” he says. Then he leaves.

He returns to his own life, this man. He’s not superficial — you can tell. “In Hollywood, it’s like that: no one just acts; you have to find your own way to make a living.”

And then he leaves, returning to his things — a multifaceted man.

“I’m nothing special,” he says. “In Hollywood, that’s how it is. Nobody just acts. You have to find your own way to make a living.”

Text and photos: MARIE MORALES

(Pronto Magazine , no. 15)

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DEBUTTA CHRISTIAN BRANDO

Lunedì **17** agosto 1987

# Sarà bravo come papà?

## Interpreta un killer nel film «La posta in gioco» di Sergio Nasca

*NARDO' (Lecce) — Christian Brando, figlio ventottenne del «leggendario» Marlon, sta concludendo a Nardò la sua prima esperienza cinematografica. Ha interpretato «killer» nel film «La posta in gioco» girato da Sergio Nasca, con una sceneggiatura di Giuseppe Ferrara, sull'uccisione dell'assessore repubblicano alla pubblica istruzione al Comune di Nardò, Renata Fonte, compiuta tra il 31 marzo e il primo aprile '84.*

*Per indurlo ad accettare di far parte del «cast» (il giovane prima d'ora aveva rifiutato diversi copioni), il produttore del film, il leccese Carmine De Benedittis, ha dovuto fare tre viaggi a Los Angeles.*

*Ma che lavoro faceva prima? Gli chiedono i giornalisti con i quali regista e attori scambiano alcune battute sul set. «Lavoro con amici — risponde Christian Brando — in una società che si occupa della potatura degli alberi a Hollywood. Comunque faccio anche il saldatore e ho insegnato saldatura».*

*Christian è contento del suo debutto cinematografico e anche se «giura» di non voler parlare di prossime esperienze si lascia sfuggire che «per parti future» non vuole interpretare «il personaggio del cattivo».*

*E suo padre, che ne pensa di lei? «Ritengo che possa essere orgoglioso perché ho fatto tutto da me. E' stato importante per me entrare nel mondo del cinema senza il suo aiuto». Anche il regista è contento della prima esperienza di Christian: «Ha un viso eccezionale — spiega Nasca — ed è professionalmente serio».*

*Christian Brando ha un tatuaggio sull'avambraccio destro: una croce e il suo nome. «Erano gli anni Settanta — spiega ai giornalisti — ed ero al liceo. Avevo degli amici pazzi che per festeggiare il mio compleanno non trovarono di meglio che farmi fare il giro dei bar e una volta ubriaco mi fecero tatuare. Mi risvegliai nel mio letto con una benda sul braccio e insanguinato... era un tatuaggio. Il giorno dopo spaccai il muso ad alcuni di quei miei amici...».*

*«Debbo dire — conclude Christian — che lascio con malinconia questa terra, dopo tre mesi di permanenza. E' simile alla mia California. Non so se tornerò a casa o mi fermerò a Roma dove mi hanno invitato. Vado a naso... quello che viene, viene...».*

*Quello di Brando junior non è stato l'unico «debutto»: «La posta in gioco» è il primo film prodotto da De Benedittis che sinora — spiega egli stesso — è stato un «importatore di prodotto cinematografico finito».*

*Perché la decisione di realizzare questo film? «Perché è una storia accaduta nel mio paese, Nardò, e mi ha colpito la fine di Renata Fonte che avevo conosciuto».*

*La pellicola è costata due miliardi e mezzo e sarà presentata a Lecce in prima nazionale entro il prossimo novembre: gli ingressi saranno in parte a pagamento e l'incasso sarà devoluto alle figlie di Renata Fonte.*

*Commentando il proprio lavoro, Sergio Nasca dice: «E' un film che non mancherà di creare, lo prevedo, discussioni. Per quanto mi riguarda — aggiunge — sono stato molto attento, nel ricostruire questo giallo, a tutti gli atti dell'inchiesta, partendo dal libro scritto sulla vicenda.*

LIRICA A FIRENZE

## «Bohème» di Zeffirelli

### La stagione si aprirà il 21 settembre

FIRENZE — La «Israel Philarmonic Orchestra» diretta da Zubin Metha aprirà la stagione lirica 1987 del Teatro Comunale toscano il prossimo 21 settembre, che entrerà comunque nel vivo il primo ottobre con la presentazione del «Boris Godunov» di Mussorgskij.

L'opera, in un nuovo allestimento e in lingua originale, sarà diretta da Myung-Whun Chung con la partecipazione, tra i protagonisti, di Robert Lloyd, nel ruolo di Boris, e di Fedora Barbieri. L'annuncio è stato dato dal sovrintendente del Teatro Comunale di Firenze, Giorgio Vidusso, nel corso di una conferenza stampa per presentare la stagione lirica.

La stagione del Teatro comunale, realizzata con la consulenza artistica del maestro Bruno Bartoletti, proseguirà martedì 20 ottobre con la commedia musicale in un atto «L'heure espagnole» di Maurice Ravel e «La vida breve» di Manuel De Falla, ambedue in lingua originale con Eduardo Mata alla guida dell'orchestra, coro e corpo di ballo del «Maggio musicale», oltre a due danzatori di flamenco per il lavoro di De Falla.

Per il primo novembre sono invece in programma «Il dottor Miracolo» di Georges Bizet e «Livietta e Tracollo» di Pergolesi con la regia di Roberto De Simone.

«Livietta e Tracollo» fu già presentata a Firenze due anni fa come intermezzo, cioè per la destinazione voluta originariamente da Pergolesi per la propria opera seria «Adriano in Siria».

L'ultima opera della stagione lirica sarà invece «La Boheme» di Giacomo Puccini che andrà in scena il 21 novembre con la regia di Franco Zeffirelli e la direzione di Carlos Kleiber.

Zeffirelli e Kleiber avevano già collaborato nella stagione lirica di tre anni fa per la «Traviata» di Giuseppe Verdi, della quale fu protagonista Cecilia Gasdia.

Oltre a quello inaugurale sono due i concerti previsti, il primo dei quali (23 ottobre) è affidato all'Orchestra di Stato del ministero dell'Urss diretta da Gennady Rozhdestvenskij impegnata in un programma che comprende pagine di Rimskij-Korsakov, Borodin, Mussorgskij e Balakirev.

Per il 20 novembre è invece in programma un recital del violinista Itzahk Perlman e del pianista Bruno Canino.

Due anche gli spettacoli di balletto: il 16 ottobre sarà di scena il corpo di ballo del Maggio musicale fiorentino con uno spettacolo di cui sono previste 21 repliche, mentre il 16 dicembre la stagione si concluderà con «Il mandarino meraviglioso» (la coreografia è di Aurelio Millos) e «Il principe di legno» in una serata finale interamente dedicata a Bela Bartok.

**CHRISTIAN BRANDO DEBUTS**

**Will he be as good as his father?**

He plays a killer in the film "La posta in gioco" by Sergio Nasca

Monday, August 17, 1987

NARDÒ (Lecce) — Christian Brando, the twenty-eight-year-old son of the "legendary" Marlon Brando, is wrapping up his first film experience in Nardò. He played a "killer" in the movie La posta in gioco (The Stakes), directed by Sergio Nasca with a screenplay by Giuseppe Ferrara. The film is based on the murder of Renata Fonte, the Republican city councilor for public education in Nardò, which took place between March 31 and April 1, 1984.

To persuade him to join the cast (the young man had previously turned down several scripts), the film's producer, Carmine De Benedittis from Lecce, had to make three trips to Los Angeles.

But what kind of work did he do before? Journalists asked him as he exchanged remarks with directors and actors on set. "I work with friends," Christian Brando replied, "in a company that handles tree pruning in Hollywood. However, I am also a welder and I learned welding."

Christian is happy with his film debut, and although he "swears" he doesn't want to talk about future projects, he lets slip that "for future roles" he doesn't want to play "the villain."

And his father—what does he think of you? "I believe he can be proud because I did everything on my own. It was important for me to enter the world of cinema without his help."

The film director Sergio Nasca is also pleased with Christian's first experience: "He has an exceptional face," Nasca explains, "and he is professionally serious."

Christian Brando has a tattoo on his right forearm: a cross and his name. "It was the seventies," he explains to reporters, "and I was in high school. I had some friends who, to celebrate my birthday, found nothing better to do than take me on a bar crawl. Once I was drunk, they had me tattooed. I woke up in my bed with a bandage on my arm and... a tattoo. The next day, I went out and smashed a few of their faces in..."

"I must say," Christian concludes, "that I leave this land with melancholy after a three-month stay. It is similar to my California. I don't know if I will return home or stop in Rome, where I've been invited. I'm going by instinct ... whatever happens, happens..."

Brando Junior's wasn't the only "debut": La posta in gioco is the first film produced by De Benedittis, who until now—as he explains himself—has been an importer of finished cinematic products.

Why the decision to make this film? "Because it is a story that happened in my town, Nardò, and I was struck by the death of Renata Fonte, whom I had known."

The film cost 2.5 billion [lire] and will have its national premiere in Lecce by next November. Admission will be partially paid, and the proceeds will be donated to Renata Fonte's daughters.

Commenting on his own work, Sergio Nasca says: "It's a film that will certainly spark discussion. As far as I'm concerned," he adds, "I was very careful in reconstructing this crime story, drawing on all the acts of the investigation, starting from the book written about the case."

(Lunedì Newspaper/ 1987)

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DESPUES DE SU FRACASO MATRIMONIAL QUE LE LLEVO A LA DEPRESION

## CHRISTIAN, EL HIJO DE MARLON BRANDO, NOS PRESENTA A SU NOVIA, LA CANTANTE LAURA FUINO

**«Desde que conocí a Laura mi vida ha cambiado. Soy un hombre más abierto»**

**«Ser hijo de Marlon Brando implica mucha responsabilidad. La gente establece comparaciones y estar a la altura de mi padre es muy difícil»**

Christian Brando, hijo del famoso actor Marlon Brando y de la actriz Anna Kashfi, con su nuevo amor, la bella cantante italiana Laura Fuino

«Después de conocer a Laura, mi vida ha cambiado», dice Christian. Ambos se declaran muy satisfechos de la relación surgida entre ellos

CHRISTIAN Brando, el hijo del famoso actor Marlon Brando y de la actriz india Anna Kashfi, ha encontrado un nuevo amor, después de un período de soledad que siguió a su divorcio, en la persona de la bella cantante italiana Laura Fuino.

Actualmente, la pareja comparte su vida y sus éxitos y se declaran muy satisfechos con su relación. Laura es una belleza morena de profundos ojos color avellana, que posee los suficientes méritos para haber conquistado el corazón del tímido y duro Christian.

**—¿Cómo os conocisteis?**

—Nos conocimos en Los Angeles —comenta Laura—, donde yo estaba estudiando en la escuela de canto y declamación. En mi profesión es muy importante conocer gente y hacerse ver, por lo que frecuentaba a menudo el mundo del cine. En una de mis excursiones en ese ambiente descubrí a Christian y me enamoré perdidamente de él. Bueno, es hacer a la verdad, tengo que añadir que el flechazo fue mutuo.

Christian, por su parte, ajusta: «Desde que conocí a Laura he cambiado muchísimo, ahora soy un hombre más abierto y dispuesto». Ella es como un volcán en constante erupción, yo tengo que hacer un gran esfuerzo para seguirla en su ritmo de vertiginoso.

### UN HOMBRE TIMIDO QUE NO QUERIA CONOCER A NINGUNA OTRA MUJER

Confiesa Christian que sufrió mucho con la separación de sus padres, los cuales se disputaron durante mucho tiempo la custodia de su hijo, por lo que decidió a los dieciocho años vivir alejado tanto de uno como de otro. Hasta llegar al mundo del cine, Christian ha probado suerte en cantidad de oficios desde pescador de perlas y camarero en el restaurante que su padre tiene en Tahití hasta propietario de una empresa de repoblación de árboles en California. Su vagabundeo le llevó hasta Alaska, después descubrió los espacios abiertos de Oregón, que le conquistaron inmediatamente, y aun ahora sigue acudiendo allí cuando necesita descansar. «No obstante de llevar una vida errante, encontré pronto el tiempo para casarme. Mi matrimonio duró ocho años y cuando terminó no quería volver a conocer a ninguna mujer. La verdad es que tenía miedo de volver a fracasar». Cuentan sus amigos que su reserva y timidez le llevaron incluso a negar su relación con Laura, cuando llegó a Italia a rodar la película «La posta in Gioco». Pero esta reserva duró poco, se encuentra tan feliz con Laura, que en seguida anunció su historia de amor con ella.

**—¿Cómo ha influido su padre en su carrera de actor?**

—Ser hijo de un gran actor como su padre trae consigo mucha responsabilidad, porque la gente siempre os va a hacer, aunque sea inconscientemente, comparaciones entre uno y otro. De todas maneras, aunque yo estoy muy unido a él, mi padre siempre ha estado fuera de mi vida, rechazando en todo momento las decisiones que yo he tomado, sin intentar influenciarme en nada. Creo que esta actitud ha sido muy beneficiosa para mí. Muchas personas han dicho que tengo un parecido sorprendente con mi padre, yo personalmente pienso que no, e incluso mi forma de actuar ante las cámaras es muy distinta de la de él.

**—¿Te gustaría trabajar con él en alguna película?**

—La verdad es que no, prefiero seguir mi carrera en solitario. Por ahora me va muy bien así y espero que por mucho tiempo. No sé si más adelante pensaré de manera diferente, porque también es verdad que trabajar con un actor de la talla de mi padre es un privilegio para cualquier persona. Actualmente también es difícil trabajar juntos, porque él prácticamente está retirado del cine y sólo actúa en contadas ocasiones, pero si algún día encontramos la película y el momento adecuados es posible que nos encontremos ante las cámaras.

### LAURA OPINA SOBRE CHRISTIAN

**—Laura, ¿cómo es Christian?**

—Es un ser maravilloso, grande y fuerte físicamente, pero tímido como un niño. Antes de conocerme sólo se encontraba bien en soledad y en contacto con la Naturaleza, pero ahora es otro hombre. Es lógico que después de su frustrado matrimonio quisiera huir de las mujeres, pero yo entré en su vida y lo convertí en la persona que ahora es.

### PROXIMA PELICULA JUNTOS

**—¿Es cierto que, en breve, vais a rodar una película juntos?**

—Sí, estamos muy ilusionados con el proyecto. Al principio me costó mucho convencer a Christian de lo positivo que sería actuar juntos en una película; él, por su parte, pensaba que eso iba a estropear nuestra relación. Yo siempre le decía que si nos complementábamos tan bien en nuestra vida privada eso se traduciría también ante las cámaras. Ahora todas las dudas están resueltas, pero prefiero no adelantar nada más hasta que todo se haga realidad.

Laura y Christian poseen mostrando su amor y felicidad y hacen votos para que sus éxitos y su vida en común duren eternamente.

Fotos: ROBERTA HIDALGO (FREELANCER)

todocoleccion

**AFTER HIS MARITAL FAILURE THAT LED HIM TO DEPRESSION CHRISTIAN, THE SON OF MARLON BRANDO, INTRODUCES US TO HIS GIRLFRIEND, SINGER LAURA FUINO**

"Since I met Laura, my life has changed. I am now a more open man." "Being the son of Marlon Brando involves a great deal of responsibility. People establish comparisons and being at the height of my father is very difficult."

[Body of the Article] Christian Brando, son of the famous actor Marlon Brando and actress Anna Kashfi, has found a new love after his period of solitude following his divorce, in the person of the beautiful Italian singer Laura Fuino. Currently, the couple shares their life and successes and declares themselves very satisfied with their relationship.

"How did you meet?" "We met in Los Angeles," says Laura, "where I was studying at a cinema and acting school. In my profession, it is very important to meet people and be serious, so I frequented the film world often. In one of my encounters in that environment, I discovered Christian and fell madly in love with him. Well, in truth, I must say the spark was mutual."

Christian, for his part, adds: "Since I met Laura, I have changed a lot; now I am a more open and available man. She is like a ray of light in constant eruption, and I have to make a great effort to follow her frenetic pace."

A SHY MAN WHO DID NOT WANT TO KNOW ANY OTHER WOMAN Christian confesses that he suffered a lot with the separation of his parents, who fought for his custody for a long time, which is why he decided years ago to live detached from both of them. Until reaching the world of cinema, Christian tried his luck in a number of trades, from fisherman of pearls and waiter in the restaurant his father has in Tahiti, to owner of a tree surgery company in California. His wandering took him as far as Alaska; later he discovered the open spaces of Oregon, which conquered him immediately, and even now he continues going there when he needs to hide.

"Despite leading an erratic life, I found time to get married. My marriage lasted eight years and when it ended, I didn’t want to meet any other woman again. The truth is, I was afraid of failing again. My friends tell me that my reserve and shyness led them even to deny my relationship with Laura when she went to Italy to shoot the film 'La posta in Gioco.' But this secret lasted a short time; he is so happy with Laura that he immediately announced his love story with her."

"How has your father influenced your acting career?" "Being the son of a great actor like my father brings a lot of responsibility, because people are always making comparisons between us. Anyway, even though I am very close to him, my father has always stayed out of my life, respecting the decisions I have made at all times, without trying to influence me in anything. I personally think I don’t resemble him, and even my way of acting in front of the cameras is very distinct from his."

"Would you like to work with him in a movie?" "The truth is, no. I prefer to continue my career alone. For now, it’s going very well for me and I hope it stays that way for a long time. I don't know if later I will think differently, because it is also true that working with an actor of the stature of my father is a privilege for anyone. Currently, it is also difficult to work together, because he is practically retired from cinema and only acts on rare occasions, but if one day we find the movie and the right moment, it is possible that we will meet before the cameras."

LAURA’S OPINION ABOUT CHRISTIAN "Laura, what is Christian like?" "He is a wonderful being, big and physically strong, but as shy as a child. Before meeting me, he was only found in solitude and in contact with nature, but now he is another man. It is logical that after

his frustrated marriage he didn't want to see women, but I entered his life and turned him into the person he is now."

NEXT MOVIE TOGETHER "Is it true that, shortly, you are going to shoot a movie together?" "Yes, we are very excited about the project. At the beginning, it took a lot to convince Christian of the positive [aspect] of acting together in a movie; he, for his part, thought that this would ruin our relationship. I always told him that if we complemented each other so well in our private life, this would translate also before the cameras. Now all doubts are resolved, but I prefer not to advance anything else until it all becomes a reality."

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Rips Page Six for getting theft tale all wrong

Brando son toasts Post

**Brando son toasts Post. Rips Page Six for getting theft tale all wrong**

By MICHELLE CARUSO

NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

Sep 07, 2006 at 12:00 AM

LOS ANGELES - Christian Brando is tired of getting a bum rap. He's fuming about a New York Post Page Six hatchet job that called him a "creepy killer" and accused him of trying to sell the personal address book of his late father, legendary actor Marlon Brando, in order to make a quick buck. "I didn't do it! I'm not a seedy creep!

" said Christian Brando, 48. In an exclusive interview with the Daily News, the Oscar winner's eldest son swore he had nothing to do with pilfering or hawking the celeb-packed

roster, which was briefly offered on eBay but quickly pulled when lawyers for "The Godfather" star's estate reported it stolen in June. "Why would I do that? Why does everyone blame me for all this s--t?

" said Brando, the family black sheep who did six years in prison for fatally shooting his half-sister Cheyenne's boyfriend Dag Drollet in 1990. "I didn't get away with anything! I did my time," he said. "There are people in the media that are gonna make up anything about me. They hit me over and over. ... I can't help the media," he griped. "Everyone thinks we got millions of dollars. When my father died he left a lot of taxes," said Brando, who is one of at least nine children the star had with three wives and various lovers. Brando's girlfriend Donna Geon backed up his assertion. "Christian was very upset about the death of his dad when we went there [to Marlon's former Mulholland Drive home this year]. He didn't take the phone book," said Geon, who admitted they did grab "some dishes.

" Christian Brando also railed that Robert Blake's lawyers tried to blame him for the 2001 murder of the former "Baretta" star's wife, Bonny Lee Bakley. Brando had a fling with Bakley, who initially said her baby was Brando's. A DNA test proved Blake was the father of baby Rose. "When Blake's wife was murdered, I was under 9 tons of logging truck" in Washington State, "but they tried to pin that on me," Brando fumed. L.

A. County prosecutors said Brando had an "airtight" alibi for the time of Bakley's shooting death. Blake was acquitted of murder in 2005. mcaruso@nydailynews.

Daily News

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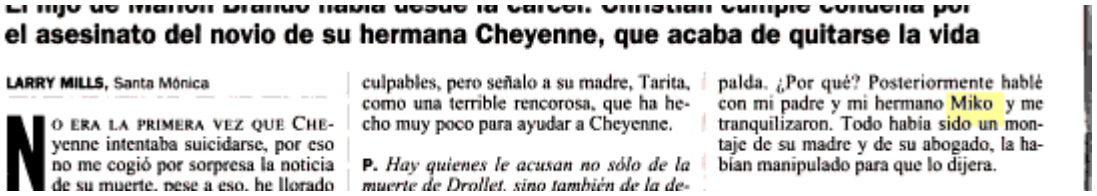


**el asesinato del novio de su hermana Cheyenne, que acaba de quitarse la vida**

**LARRY MILLS**, Santa Mónica

NO ERA LA PRIMERA VEZ QUE Cheyenne intentaba suicidarse, por eso no me cogió por sorpresa la noticia de su muerte, pese a eso, he llorado

culpables, pero señalo a su madre, Tarita, como una terrible rencorosa, que ha hecho muy poco para ayudar a Cheyenne.

P. *Hay quienes le acusan no sólo de la muerte de Drollet, sino también de la de-*

palda. ¿Por qué? Posteriormente hablé con mi padre y mi hermano Miko y me tranquilizaron. Todo había sido un montaje de su madre y de su abogado, la habían manipulado para que lo dijera.

INTERVIEW Christian Brando "I knew my Sister would end up like this" Marlon Brando's son speaks from prison. Christian is serving time for the murder of his sister Cheyenne's boyfriend, who has just taken her own life. (Cambio 16 Magazine , 1995 . Translated from Spanish to English)

CB. "It wasn't the first time Cheyenne had attempted suicide, so I was not taken by surprise at the news of her death. Despite that I have cried and felt her end. She was a good girl, although mentally she had always been weak". This was the first thing Christian Brando said in the office of the deputy warden of the prison, where he is serving his sentence.

Q. Cheyenne Brando's remains lie next to those of her boyfriend Dag Droilet. Marlon Brando is being treated in a hospital for the shock caused by the death of his daughter and you are in jail. It is a dramatic situation... hospital from the "shock of your sister 's death and you are in jail It is a dramatic situation.

Q.What has she achieved by hanging himself?

CB. Nothing, she's not going to be guilty(not going to recriminate herself) (not going to be blamed), but I point to her mother, Tarita, as a terrible, spiteful woman ( person) who has done very little to help Cheyenne.

Q. What would you have said to Cheyenne if she had told you what she was going to do?

CB. I would have looked for a way to dissuade her. Death is not the solution . It is a sign of weakness, and Cheyenne's mental weakness was notorious ( noticeable).

Q. Do you regret it?

CB. What I regret is that my sister was not able to react (succeed), and she looked for a way out of her situation in death.

Q. Cheyenne accused you and your father of executing and inducing Droiler's death. How did you react to that?

CB. Initially I was shocked, outraged, angry, I didn't understand these accusations, I was in the prison for defending her and our father has never been the same since. We had pampered her, she thinks she is "the favorite" of all of us, and unexpectedly I find that she stabs us in the back ,Why? Later I spoke to my father and my brother Miko and they reassured me everything had been a setup by her mother and her lawyer, they had manipulated her into saying it.

Q. Do you have a guilt neurosis?

CB. I am not a murderer. Until that day I was a gun enthusiast, today I hate them. I wish I had broken my arms before I was at home that night. Fate played a trick on all of us.

CB. If I had the opportunity to revoke, things would have been done differently, not only me, but also Dag Drollet, Cheyenne, our mothers, everyone would have acted more responsibly.

CB. I have never been seduced by the practice of victimhood, not even in this situation, the situation has presented itself as such, and as such I have to accept it, even if I regret it.

CB. That night I saw how he hit her and I couldn't stand it. I went for him. We argued, the gun came up, and you can see the result: he is in the cemetery and me in prison. I only wanted to scare him and prevent him from continuing to mistreat her. When a gun is fired the results are almost always disastrous.

I have recounted many times that I'm sorry for his death. The unfortunate event, which would not have occurred if Dag had not mistreated my sister. The aggressiveness of that boy against my sister made the glass of our endurance capacity as a family overflow.but at the same time, I reiterate that under the same circumstances I would react in the same way. I was defending my sister,  if he had the gun, he would have used it against me.

Q. Did you ever see how Dag Drollet hit Cheyenne?

CB. Cheyenne's weakness, physically and mentally, made her a propitiatory victim of the mistreatment inflicted by Dag, a bad guy, who was envious of our family. I had seen on my

sister signs of blows on several occasions, but she always denied that it was her boyfriend who was the aggressor. That night I saw him hit her and I couldn't stand it.

Q. Are you satisfied with your father's performance?

CB. He has always been by our side when we have needed him. On more than one occasion he has abandoned a shooting a movie to be next to one of us who was in trouble.

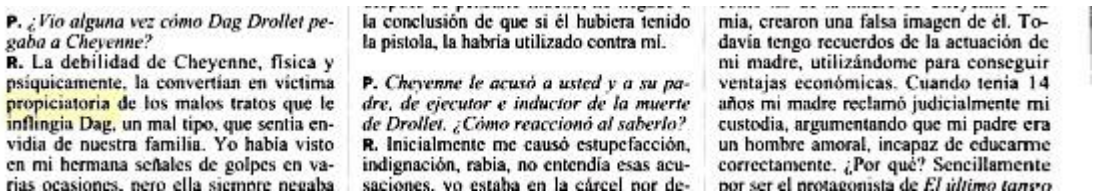
(Brando's role as a father is the main subject of his children). People have created a false image of him. I still have memories of my mother's actions, using me to obtain economic advantages. When I was 14 years old, my mother filed a legal claim for my custody, arguing that my father was an amoral man, incapable of educating me correctly. why? Simply because he is the protagonist of the movie the Last Tango in Paris. My father is incapable of harming anyone, least of all his own son.

Q. But you decided in favor of him?

CB. I have not stopped loving my mother, but my father is above (everything)all.

Q. Your sentence is ten years in prison. How do you live with it?  Have you changed a lot since you have been in prison?

CB. Prison marks first-timers and in my case, the change is notable , so much so that it is difficult for me to recognize myself. I am not going to say that this place is the ideal environment for the rehabilitation of inmates. I have not learned anything with the social programs developed by the prison.



**P.** *¿Vio alguna vez cómo Dag Drollet pegaba a Cheyenne?*
**R.** La debilidad de Cheyenne, física y psíquicamente, la convertían en víctima propiciatoria de los malos tratos que le infligía Dag, un mal tipo, que sentía envidia de nuestra familia. Yo había visto en mi hermana señales de golpes en varias ocasiones, pero ella siempre negaba

la conclusión de que si él hubiera tenido la pistola, la habría utilizado contra mí.

**P.** *Cheyenne le acusó a usted y a su padre, de ejecutor e inductor de la muerte de Drollet. ¿Cómo reaccionó al saberlo?*
**R.** Inicialmente me causó estupefacción, indignación, rabia, no entendía esas acusaciones, yo estaba en la cárcel por de-

mía, crearon una falsa imagen de él. Todavía tengo recuerdos de la actuación de mi madre, utilizándome para conseguir ventajas económicas. Cuando tenía 14 años mi madre reclamó judicialmente mi custodia, argumentando que mi padre era un hombre amoral, incapaz de educarme correctamente. ¿Por qué? Sencillamente por ser el protagonista de *El último tango*

Q. Is it true that you intend to write a book about your experience in prison?

CB. It was a primary idea, nothing more, the best thing about it is to forget about it. When I am released, I will focus on getting out, raising my own family and avoiding getting into conflicts.

Q.How hard will it be when you get out of jail?

CB. One of the first things I will do is go to Cheyenne's grave, and try to visit her daughter

Q. What will it be like when you get out of jail?

CB. One of the first things I will do is go to Cheyenne's grave, and try to visit her daughter. ( even in a 1991 interview, Chris thought that Cheyenne gave birth to a girl but it is a boy)

Q. Is it true that you intend to write a book about your prison experience?

A. It was a primary idea, nothing more, the best thing about this is to forget it. When I am granted freedom, I will focus on working, starting my own family and avoiding getting into conflicts.

(Cambio 16 Magazine , 1995 . Translated from Spanish to English)

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▫Cinema and literature have tempted him with dollars. His story would be a good argument.But he prefers not to give more publicity and start again.

▫Five years have passed, Christian Brando has regained his freedom and is preparing to start a new life.

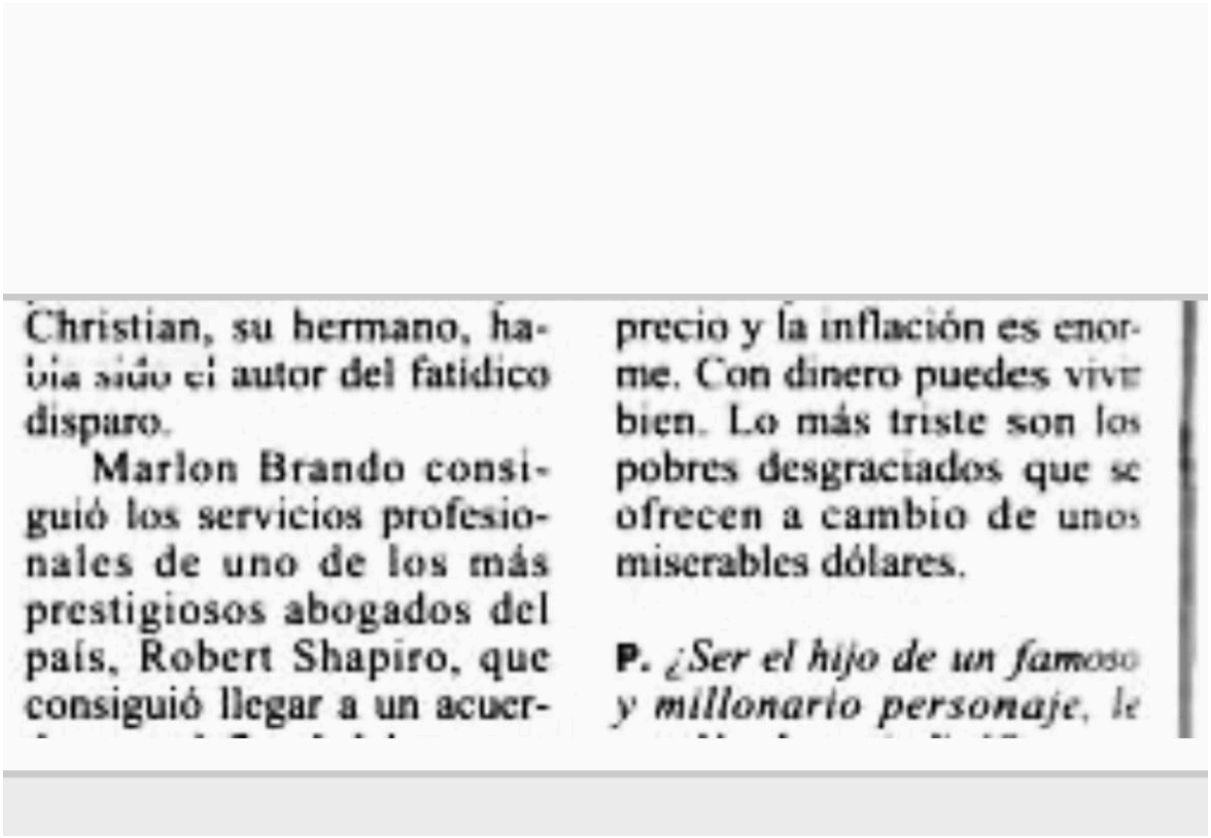
Q. What feeling did he have when he found himself free?

▪CB. I appreciated for the first time in my life what freedom means. Only when you lose something so valuable, do you realize its importance. They have been very hard years, which have helped me mature mentally and physically.

▪CB. The first months were like a terrible nightmare, everything was going from bad to worse, I had to make myself respected through beatings and money. The last two years were like a vacation period.

Q. Being the son of a famous and millionaire person, did it help you or hurt you?

▪CB. Initially it was negative, but as time went by things improved thanks to some of my father's friends.



Christian, su hermano, había sido el autor del fatídico disparo.

Marlon Brando consiguió los servicios profesionales de uno de los más prestigiosos abogados del país, Robert Shapiro, que consiguió llegar a un acuer-

precio y la inflación es enorme. Con dinero puedes vivir bien. Lo más triste son los pobres desgraciados que se ofrecen a cambio de unos miserables dólares.

**P.** *¿Ser el hijo de un famoso y millonario personaje, le*

Q. P. Is it true that his father contacted the Mafia to protect him in prison?

▪CB. I don't know who he spoke to, but I do recognise that my stay in prison got better after that conversation.

Q. At some point you were afraid that you would not reach the end of your sentence?

▪CB. I appreciated for the first time in my life what freedom means. Only when you lose something so valuable, do you realize its importance. They have been very hard years, which have helped me mature mentally and physically".

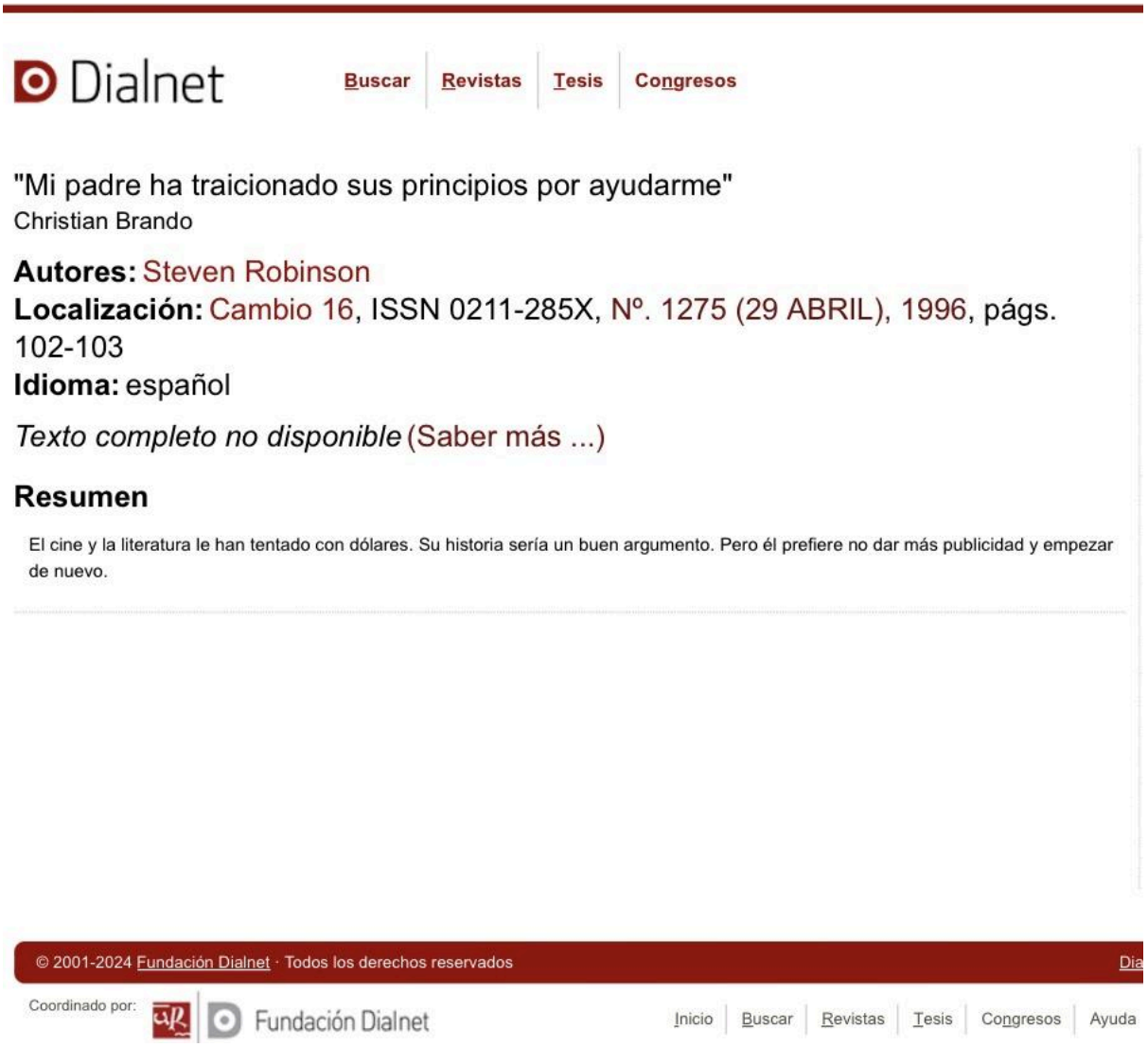
Q. What could you say about prison?

▪CB. As an experience that I do not wish on the greatest of my enemies.  That it is not a rehabilitation place, on the contrary. over there anything has a price and inflation is enormous. With money you can live well. The saddest thing are the poor unfortunates who offer themselves in exchange for a few miserable dollars.

Q. Do you believe that a man's life is paid for with five years in prison?

▪CB. First you should know the situation we were experiencing.

(Cambio 16 Magazine , 1996 . Translated from Spanish to English)

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**“He is very gentle, sensitive, masculine, a little macho, very possessive. like Marlon, modest and independent. He never wanted anyone to know who his father was. Often he introduced himself only by his first name because as soon as Brando's name was mentioned he was pestered with questions. So he made people believe he was a unknown .”**

à 6 heures du matin. J'ai aussitôt foncé au commissariat de Beverly Hills pour essayer de voir Christian, mais on ne m'a pas laissée l'approcher. Je lui ai fait passer un petit mot pour lui dire que je l'aimais et que je le soutenais. Je n'ai pu le voir que plus tard. Il était mortifié, totalement sonné, très préoccupé aussi par l'allure qu'il devait avoir. Je lui ai conseillé de mettre ses cheveux en arrière parce qu'ils étaient tout ébouriffés. Je lui ai dit que son père le soutenait à 100 %. Il était affolé à l'idée que l'affaire soit reprise par les journaux. Il n'avait pas la moindre idée de ce qui allait advenir.

Il mourait d'envie de me raconter ce qui s'était passé mais, légalement, il n'avait pas le droit de le faire.

**P.M.** Connaissant Christian, pensez-vous qu'il ait été capable, sous l'empire de la colère, de tuer quelqu'un?

**M.McK.** Non. Il était le garçon le plus gentil du monde. Christian avait rencontré Dag pour la première fois quelques heures auparavant. Lorsque Cheyenne lui a dit que son ami la battait alors qu'elle était enceinte, ça a dû le rendre fou. Mais pas au point de le tuer! C'est absurde. Il n'y a jamais eu préméditation. La scène s'est déroulée dans la chambre de Christian. Il cachait habituellement son pistolet sous son matelas, comme le faisait son père. C'est un accident.

**P.M.** Etait-il très attaché à Cheyenne?

**M.McK.** C'était sa petite sœur. Je crois qu'ils ne se voyaient pas très souvent. Quand nous étions mariés, elle venait peut-être quinze jours par an à Los Angeles, pas plus. Le reste du temps, elle le passait à Tahiti.

Marlon nous invitait tout le temps là-bas, mais on n'y allait jamais. Ça ne disait rien à Christian. Quand il avait 15 ans, son père l'avait envoyé pendant neuf mois sur son île pour travailler. Il en avait gardé un très mauvais souvenir. Il n'y avait, disait-il, ni femmes, ni télévision, ni cigarettes. Il avait détesté. A tel point que, une nuit, il avait même essayé de partir à la rame sur un bateau, vers la grande île. Il ne supportait pas d'être enfermé.

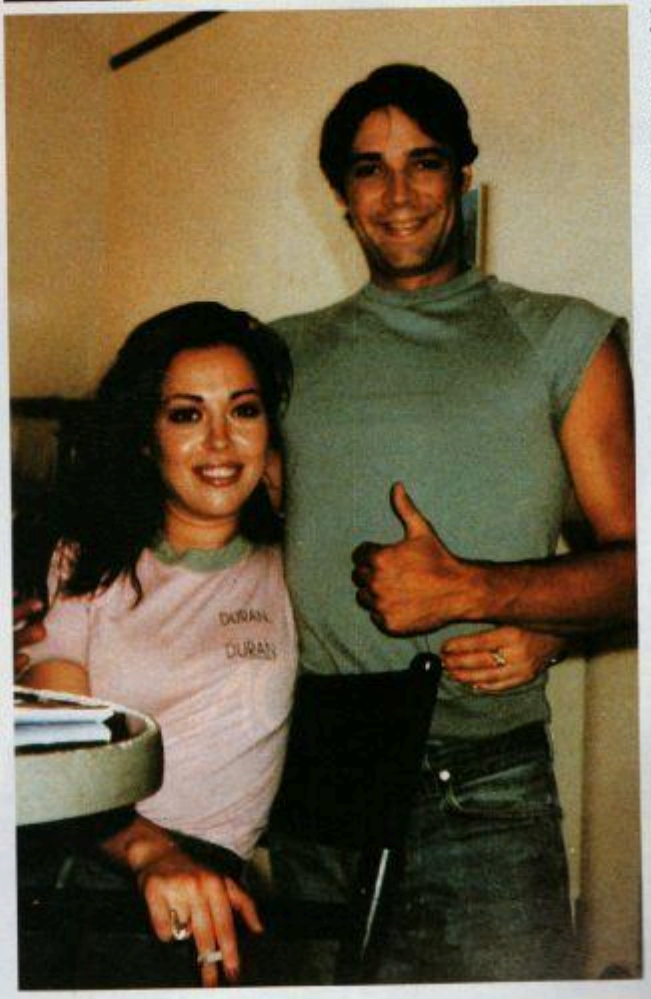
**P.M.** Vous l'avez vu juste avant le procès. Quelle vie menait-il?

**M.McK.** Il avait arrêté de boire depuis neuf mois. Il se rendait toutes les semaines à des réunions des Alcooliques anonymes ainsi qu'à des séances de psychothérapie. Il vivait calmement avec sa petite amie dans un appartement. Il travaillait comme soudeur au chalumeau. "Tu vois, m'avait-il dit, le seul avantage, maintenant que tout le monde a peur de moi, c'est qu'on me fout la paix!"

Je lui ai parlé la veille du procès. Il m'a dit qu'il était prêt à payer sa dette envers la société. "Tu vas voir le cirque, demain!" Ça a été ses derniers mots.

**P.M.** Qui a payé ses avocats?

**M.McK.** Lui. Il a tenu absolument à le faire. Pour ses 30 ans, il avait reçu un peu d'argent de son père qui était bloqué dans un trust. Tout y est passé. ■




*Christian et Mary (photo du haut), au Cerque, à Los Angeles, célébraient l'avènement de l'année 1982 en compagnie de Marlon et de sa compagne de l'époque, la Japonaise Yachio Tsubaki. Photo du bas, quelque temps après leur mariage, dans la maison que leur avait offerte Marlon.*

Paris Match magazine : How did you know Christian?

Mary McKenna: We were neighbors. I was 12, he was 11. I was coming back from school. He was walking his dog. He told me that he didn't want to go home because his mother didn't want the animal. I asked mine if he could stay for dinner with us. In the evening, he didn't want to leave. Mom wanted to know who this little boy was. I told her I didn't know, which was true. He asked if he could call his father to tell him where he was. Since that day, whenever there was a problem at home, he came to the house. It was about a year later that his parents began to fight over custody of him. The newspapers were full of this affair.

Paris Match: Did he tell you about it?

Mary: Rarely. I remember one day he told me that he was in a tent on a beach in Mexico, where he was having a good time, when suddenly he saw helicopters coming towards him. A man, descended from one of them, a famous detective in the United States, had approached him to take him away. He always told me he could never forget it because he had hooks for arms.

P.M: When his father gained custody, did you continue to see each other?

Mary: All the time. As he lived quite far away, Marlon paid for taxi fares for his friends so that they could continue to come and play with him.

P.M. It is said that his mother, who drank a lot, and beat him?

Mary. He was very discreet. In twenty two years, he has never said a wrong word to me about his mother.  For him, she was a cultured woman.

P.M. When did you become lovers?

Mary. I was 17, he was 16. We already lived in Marlon's house. I don't know how he could stand us! We were hell. We were screaming, playing hide and seek in the house, we dived fully clothed into the pool!

P.M. You were married on January 28, 1980. Was Marlon Brando at the wedding?

Mary. No. When we had been living together for three months, we decided, on a whim, to get married without talking about it. We both went downtown. I remember Christian complaining that parking costs even more than the marriage license! When we got home, we told his father the news. He was delighted. He opened a bottle of champagne to celebrate the event. But, for Marlon, marriage meant nothing. He said that ties of the heart are more important than papers.

P.M. Tell me about Marlon. What kind of a man is he?

Mary. He is very intelligent, very generous with everyone. One day I had a bicycle accident. When he learned that I was riding a bike because I didn't know how to drive, he immediately offered me driving lessons; and, for my 21st birthday, a red Volkswagen convertible. For my wedding, he told me: "Write on a sheet of paper what would make you the most happy and you will have it.

Marlon always offered Christian money but he refused. One day, Marlon asked me why I worked so much. I was a makeup artist on a film and I sometimes worked more than eighteen hours a day. He warned me: “If you don’t protect yourself, they will eat you!”

P.M. What relationship did he have with his son?

Mary. They adored each other. Before going to sleep, Marlon always put a little note on his pillow. I kept a few.

R.M. Tell me about Christian?

Mary. He is very sweet, sensitive, masculine, a little macho, very possessive. like Marlon, modest and independent. He never wanted anyone to know who his father was. Often, he introduced himself only by his first name because, as soon as Brando's name was mentioned, he was pestered with questions. So he made it seem like he was a distant cousin.

P.M. It is said that he hit women. Did he beat you?

Mary. It's a bit my fault for saying that. I regret it. During our divorce, in 1986, pushed by my lawyer, I exaggerated certain arguments a little because I was very angry with him. Stupid things, but Christian was never a violent person. I decided not to file for divorce, but we separated, Marlon told me: "A piece of paper is nothing. You never divorce in your heart from someone you loved."

P.M. On May 17, 1990, Christian killed her sister's lover, at her father's home. How did you learn it? Mary. By a friend who woke me up at 6 a.m. I immediately rushed to the Beverly Hills police station to try to see Christian, but they wouldn't let me near him. I sent him a little note to tell him I love him and support him. I didn't get to see it until later. He was mortified, totally stunned, and also very concerned about how he must have looked. I advised him to put his hair back because it was all disheveled. I told him that his father supported him 100%. He was distraught at the idea of the story being picked up by the newspapers. He didn't have the slightest idea what was going to happen. He was dying to tell me what happened, but legally he wasn't allowed to. “You see,” he told me, "the only advantage, now that everyone's afraid of me, is that they'll leave me " I spoke to him the day before the trial. He told me he was ready to pay his debt to society. "You're going to see the circus tomorrow!" Those were his last words before the trial.

P.M. Knowing Christian, do you think he was capable, under the influence of anger, of killing someone?

Mary. No. He was the nicest boy in the world. Christian had met Dag for the first time a few hours before. When Cheyenne told him that his friend was beating her while she was pregnant, it must have made him mad. But not to the point of killing him! It's absurd. There was never any premeditation. Christian usually hid his gun under his mattress, like his father did. It's an accident.

P.M. Was he very attached to Cheyenne? Mary. It was his little sister. I don't think they saw each other very often. When we were married, she came to Los Angeles maybe two weeks a year, no more. The rest of the time, she spent in Tahiti.

Marlon always invited us there, but we never went. That island didn't mean anything to Christian. When he was 15, his father sent him to his island for nine months to work. He had very bad memories of it. There were, he said, no women, no television, no cigarettes. He had hated it. So much so that, one night, he even tried to row away on a boat towards the big island. He couldn't stand to be locked up.

P.M. Who paid his lawyers?

Mary. Him. He absolutely insisted on doing it. For his 30th birthday, he received money from his father and mother divorce settlement which was put in a trust. Everything went there.

Her mother, Paola McKenna, said "I knew Christian since he was a little boy when he came to our yard like a deer with fear in his eyes.To me, he was always very behaved all the time. He sometimes helped me."

Mary, who is still alive, had already bought the plot to be buried next to Christian and she refused to give it up even to his mother after Kashfi's death. His mother , has instead been buried in the plot above Christian, meaning they are head to head, it was Kashfi's dying wish. However, she was the only one who supported Christian's mother by purchasing a grave, a headstone, and arranging his funeral.

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# BRANDO'S SON LABORS TO BE BIGGER STAR THAN HIS DAD

MARLON BRANDO's son, Christian, wants to follow in his father's footsteps — but he'll have to become an actor without dad's help.

Christian, 30, is a welder in Rome, Italy, where he can cultivate his film industry connections — and be near his fiancee, actress Laura Fuino.

"I'm sure my father loves me, but to tell the truth, he's never really looked after me very much," admits Christian. "When I was born he was very involved with his career, so he was never really a father to me.

"I envied my school friends — some of whom weren't as rich as me — because at least they had their fathers there," adds young Brando. "I saw him rarely. He didn't have much time to play with me."

**Christian: father's rival**

His 22-year-old girlfriend says: "Christian is very proud of his father. He says that Marlon is the greatest and most handsome actor of all times — though he does

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much," admits Christian. "When I was born he was very involved with his career, so he was never really a father to me. "I envied my school friends some of whom weren't as rich as me- because at least they had their fathers there.» adds young Brando. "I saw him rarely. He didn't have much time to play with me" His 22-year- old girlfriend and fiancee, actress Laura Fuino says:"Christian is very proud of his father. He says that Marion is the greatest and most handsome actor of all times"

Christian Brando, Marlon's son, frolics on the Adriatic with Italian gaipal Laura Fuoni, an aspiring actress

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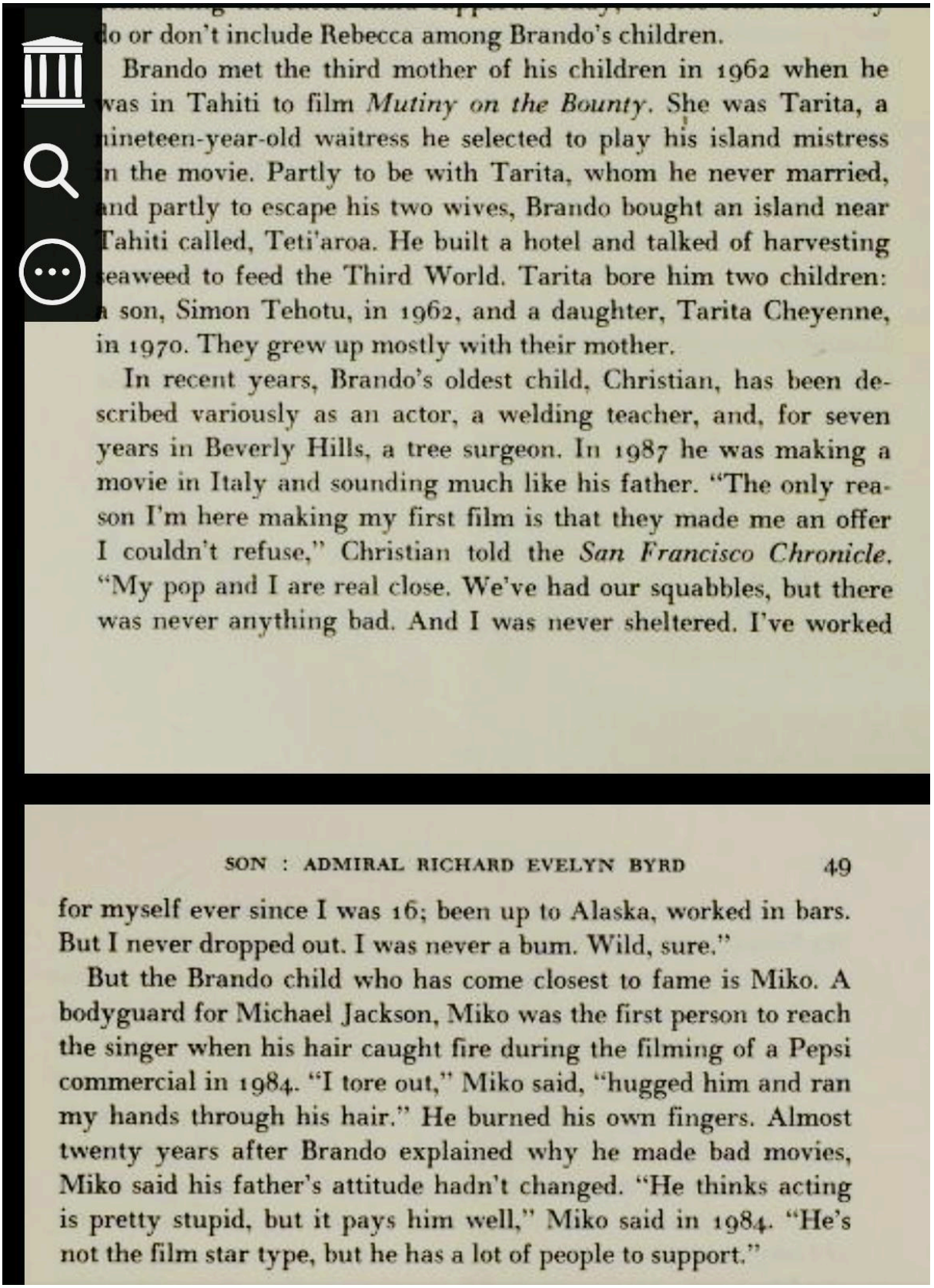
**Christian Brando: "I was never a bum**"



do or don't include Rebecca among Brando's children.

Brando met the third mother of his children in 1962 when he was in Tahiti to film *Mutiny on the Bounty*. She was Tarita, a nineteen-year-old waitress he selected to play his island mistress in the movie. Partly to be with Tarita, whom he never married, and partly to escape his two wives, Brando bought an island near Tahiti called, Teti'aroa. He built a hotel and talked of harvesting seaweed to feed the Third World. Tarita bore him two children: a son, Simon Tehotu, in 1962, and a daughter, Tarita Cheyenne, in 1970. They grew up mostly with their mother.

In recent years, Brando's oldest child, Christian, has been described variously as an actor, a welding teacher, and, for seven years in Beverly Hills, a tree surgeon. In 1987 he was making a movie in Italy and sounding much like his father. "The only reason I'm here making my first film is that they made me an offer I couldn't refuse," Christian told the *San Francisco Chronicle*. "My pop and I are real close. We've had our squabbles, but there was never anything bad. And I was never sheltered. I've worked



for myself ever since I was 16; been up to Alaska, worked in bars. But I never dropped out. I was never a bum. Wild, sure."

But the Brando child who has come closest to fame is Miko. A bodyguard for Michael Jackson, Miko was the first person to reach the singer when his hair caught fire during the filming of a Pepsi commercial in 1984. "I tore out," Miko said, "hugged him and ran my hands through his hair." He burned his own fingers. Almost twenty years after Brando explained why he made bad movies, Miko said his father's attitude hadn't changed. "He thinks acting is pretty stupid, but it pays him well," Miko said in 1984. "He's not the film star type, but he has a lot of people to support."

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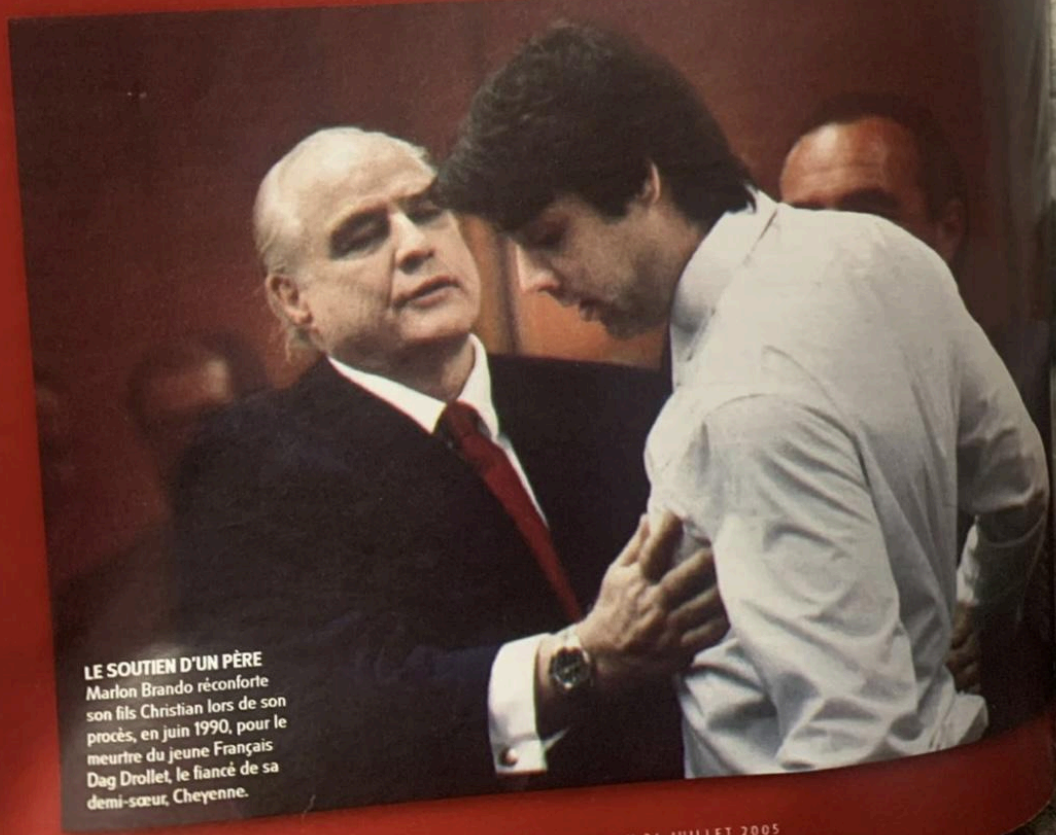
# Première confession de Christian, fils de Marlon Brando

# L'HÉRITIER MAUDIT

**Un an après la mort du monstre sacré, son fils aîné, quasiment SDF, évoque pour nous leurs relations difficiles, le meurtre du petit ami de sa sœur, les mystères autour de la succession Brando... Des propos sans détour.**

PAR PETER MANSO* ET CHRIS LAFFAILLE



**LE SOUTIEN D'UN PÈRE**
Marlon Brando réconforte son fils Christian lors de son procès, en juin 1990, pour le meurtre du jeune Français Dag Drollet, le fiancé de sa demi-sœur, Cheyenne.

FENN HARBER POUR VSD

**Première confession de Christian fils de Marlon Brando :L'HÉRITIER MAUDI**

**First confession of Christian, son of Marlon Brando**

**THE CURSED HEIR**

Christian is the eldest son of Marlon Brando, born in 1958 from his marriage to the Indian-born actress Anna Kashfi. Six months later, Marlon Brando left the marital home. During the filming of Mutiny on the Bounty in 1962, Marlon discovered Tahiti and met Tarita, who would become his lifelong “mistress from the ends of the earth.” She would give him two children, Teihotu and Cheyenne.

Brando collected affairs. His biographers speak of ten thousand liaisons. He was briefly married in Mexico to the actress Movita Castaneda and adopted two children, Miko and Rebecca.

In 1990, Christian shot his half-sister Cheyenne’s Tahitian partner, Dag. He was sentenced to five years in prison for involuntary manslaughter. Marlon Brando would have three other children with his Guatemalan housekeeper, Christina Ruiz.

We met Christian in Los Angeles, where, for the first time, between tears and anger, he tells his truth.

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VSD: How did you learn of your father’s death?

C.B.: I was on a construction site in Washington State, where I lived after my release from prison. I was working for a company doing major earthworks. During a break, no one dared look at me, let alone talk to me. I sensed a certain tension. I asked my colleagues to explain what was happening and why the atmosphere was so heavy. They seemed embarrassed. They told me they had learned about my father’s death on the radio. The guys kept their distance to respect my mourning. They were wonderful. They are people I like very much, workers like me. True friends.

VSD: Did no one in your family call to warn you?

C.B.: No, no one. You know, we are a scattered family living all over the world, which has sometimes caused problems. But I bear no grudges. I decided to stay on the site—we had work to finish. I’m not the type to give up halfway. It was also good for my morale. However, my boss let me off for the day.

VSD: What did you do then?

C.B.: I went home to Kalama. I sat by the river near my house and wondered what would happen now that my father was gone. My first reaction was: “We’re in trouble. We have a real problem.”

VSD: “We”?

C.B.: My brothers and sisters. Our family, my family!

VSD: Did his death surprise you?

C.B.: Yes, completely. I had spoken to “Pop” on the phone three weeks earlier. We had a normal, friendly conversation. We were on excellent terms. He wasn’t furious with me as he sometimes was. We were close, sometimes like friends, but I wasn’t allowed to make mistakes. He was the happiest man when I got my professional welder’s card issued by the union. He was so proud that he even came to Washington.

But he wanted me to be perfect. He was very strict, never lenient with me: “Christian, do this, Christian, do that…” And if by misfortune something didn’t go as he wished, it was always my fault, and I would get scolded. His reproaches undoubtedly influenced some members of our family: to them, I was Christian the monster, Christian the madman, Christian the unstable one.

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VSD: Did you ask for forgiveness?

C.B.: Yes, from my father, but I never dared ask Dag’s parents for forgiveness. I never really knew how. I was too ashamed… How do you apologize to people who, because of me, have suffered so much? Maybe it’s too late now…

VSD: You still killed someone in cold blood.

C.B.: Yes, I know. I hurt a lot of people. Today, there’s not a day I don’t think about that tragedy. Not a day I don’t think about how to make amends. But how?

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me dire : « Nous sommes dans le pétrin, nous avons un vrai problème »"

ELISA HABERER POUR VSD

**RETOUR SUR LE PASSÉ** Christian est revenu dans le restaurant d'Hollywood où il a dîné avec sa sœur le soir du 16 mai 1990 et d'où il partit pour la venger. Cheyenne, qui était enceinte de son fiancé à la mort de celui-ci, a mis fin à ses jours le 16 avril 1995 à Tahiti, dans la maison de sa mère.

les Brando. Si l'un d'entre nous a besoin de moi, je serai toujours là.

**VSD. Et que comptes-tu faire pour toi ?**

**C. B.** J'ai trouvé la paix, ma paix. Peu importe le reste. Je suis heureux et veux aider ceux qui m'ont aidé dans les moments difficiles. Je veux une maison et monter mon magasin de soudure à côté de mon atelier de sculpture. Quitter Hollywood et m'installer loin d'ici, peut-être sur la côte est.

**VSD. Que penses-tu des exécuteurs testamentaires de ton père, notamment du producteur Mike Medavoy qui est à la tête de la succession ?**

**C. B.** Je ne pense rien de particulier à son sujet si ce n'est que l'on vient de deux mondes différents, et que, comme mon père, il est genre « vieille école ».

**VSD. Était-il proche de ton père ?**

**C. B.** Je ne l'ai jamais vu avec lui ni entendu parler de lui à la maison. Il pense que je suis fou à lier.

**VSD. Et Angela, la gouvernante philippine de ton père ? Ne craignais-tu pas qu'elle puisse faire du mal à ce dernier ?**

**C. B.** Je savais qu'il se passait quelque chose de bizarre, mais ça ne me regardait pas. Ils avaient des relations depuis deux ans… Mon père savait très bien ce qu'il en était…

**VSD. Selon les amis de ton père, elle a tout fait pour l'isoler du monde extérieur. Depuis près de deux ans, ils n'arrivaient plus à le joindre.**

**C. B.** Je n'ai rien su de tout ça jusqu'au jour où je me suis rendu chez lui. Quel choc ! Toute la famille d'Angela y avait emménagé, avec ses chiens. Elle conduisait la voiture de papa et donnait des ordres à tout le monde. Je suis resté calme, mais je savais que quelque chose ne tournait pas rond. Mais c'étaient les affaires de mon père, et je ne voulais pas m'immiscer dans sa vie. Je ne l'avais jamais fait auparavant.

**VSD. Ne penses-tu jamais à toi ?**

**C. B.** Je ne me plains pas. Je vis dans le studio de ma nouvelle petite amie. Parfois, je me sens seul et vulnérable. Je vis mal la disparition de mon père. Je n'arrive pas à m'y faire.

**VSD. Crois-tu que ton père t'aurait laissé sans ressources ? D'ailleurs, que s'est-il passé avec tes propriétés à Washington ?**

**C. B.** Le peu d'argent que j'ai provient de la vente de Kalama. Aujourd'hui, je m'en mords les doigts. J'ai fait une bêtise en autorisant la vente de ces propriétés.

**VSD. Comment est-ce arrivé ?**

**C. B.** Je ne suis pas très doué pour ce genre de choses. David Seeley, un des exécuteurs testamentaires, m'a envoyé un pouvoir par courrier spécial. J'étais au travail et le coursier attendait. Il y avait un bruit de machines autour de moi et je ne comprenais rien de ce que David me disait au téléphone. J'étais pressé, mon patron me harcelait pour que je retourne au travail. J'ai signé en toute confiance. Quel imbécile j'ai été ! Maintenant, j'ai compris. Je me suis fait avoir. Il y avait conflit d'intérêts : il ne pouvait pas être mon avocat et en même temps un administrateur testamentaire.

**VSD. Qu'en est-il de la maison de Wonderland Drive que ton père t'avait achetée à ta majorité ?**

**C. B.** Non, c'était ma mère, en accord avec une décision de justice lors du divorce de mes parents. Je n'y habite plus depuis mon incarcération en 1991. Mon père l'avait mise à son nom pour des raisons administratives. Elle m'a été confisquée. Mais je la récupérerai. Et si ça ne marche pas, tant pis !

**"Je n'ai même pas eu le droit de me rendre dans la maison où j'ai été élevé"**

**VSD. Pendant le tournage des *Révoltés du Bounty*, ton père tombe amoureux de Tetiaroa, un atoll situé à 35 kilomètres de Papeete, et l'achète quelques années plus tard. Depuis, il a dépensé une fortune pour le préserver. Que va-t-il advenir ?**

**C. B.** J'étais avec lui à San Francisco lorsqu'il l'a acheté à la famille Williams. C'était en 1965. J'avais 7 ans. Une vieille dame nous a demandé de ne jamais couper les arbres que son arrière-arrière-grand-père avait plantés. Il est d'ailleurs enterré au pied de ces arbres centenaires. Je nettoyais régulièrement sa tombe qui datait de 1865. Mon père, mes frères (sauf Miko) et moi avons tout construit sur cette île. Ce sont mes souvenirs les plus chers.

**VSD. Sais-tu que l'île est sur le point d'être vendue pour la misérable somme de 2 millions de dollars à un groupe hôtelier américain qui veut construire l'hôtel Brando, qui comptera soixante bungalows et piscines individuelles ?**

**C. B.** C'est impossible. L'île s'enfonce petit à petit dans le lagon, alors avec le poids supplémentaire des constructions… Et, d'ailleurs, pourquoi casser quelque chose de si précieux et de si inestimable ? Mon père a essayé pendant vingt ans de faire tourner un petit hôtel écologique et a échoué. Alors, comment vont-ils y arriver ?

**VSD. Tu vas t'opposer à ce projet ?**

**C. B.** Comment ? Depuis la mort de mon père, je n'ai même pas eu le droit de me rendre dans la maison où j'ai été élevé pour y récupérer la boîte à outils que j'ai depuis l'âge de 15 ans. Ils ont menacé d'appeler la police ! Ils m'ont interdit d'y dormir et y ont mis un agent de sécurité. Mike Medavoy m'a dit qu'une lettre de mon père, qui m'était adressée, avait été retrouvée. Il a refusé de me la donner. Quand ils nous ont convoqués pour reprendre des objets personnels, c'était la foire d'empoigne. J'avais honte. Je suis resté impassible et n'ai rien demandé. J'étais fier. ■ *Recueilli par* **P. M.** *et* **C. L.** •••



VSD: Did you know your father was ill?

C.B.: I saw him for the last time two years ago. I knew he was sick, but not so seriously. He would never have complained to me or anyone. But I could tell from his voice that his

condition was worsening. I told him I loved him and asked if I could do anything. To reassure me, he said he was fine and would recover.

VSD: What do you want to do today?

C.B.: I want to take care of my brothers and sisters, especially the younger ones. I want to make sure they lack nothing. I want to do things right so that everyone is happy. There aren't many happy people among the Brandos. If one of us needs me, I'll always be there.

VSD: And for yourself?

C.B.: I have found peace, my peace. Nothing else matters. I am happy and want to help those who helped me through difficult times. I want a house and to open my welding shop next to my sculpture workshop. Leave Hollywood and settle far from here, maybe on the East Coast.

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VSD: What do you think of the executors of your father's estate, especially producer Mike Medavoy, who is in charge?

C.B.: I don't think much of him, except that we come from different worlds, and like my father, he's "old-school."

VSD: Was he close to your father?

C.B.: I never saw him with him or heard about him at home. He thinks I'm crazy.

VSD: And Angela, your father's Filipino housekeeper? Didn't you fear she could harm him?

C.B.: I knew something weird was going on, but it wasn't my business. They had been involved for two years… My father knew exactly what was happening.

VSD: According to your father's friends, she did everything to isolate him from the outside world. For nearly two years, they couldn't reach him.

C.B.: I didn't know anything until I went to his house. What a shock! Angela's whole family had moved in, with her dogs. She drove my father's car and gave orders to everyone. I stayed calm, but I knew something was wrong. But it was my father's business, and I didn't want to interfere. I had never done that before.

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VSD: Don't you ever think of yourself?

C.B.: I don't complain. I live in my new girlfriend's studio. Sometimes I feel lonely and vulnerable. I struggle with my father's death. I can't get used to it.

VSD: Do you think your father would have left you without resources? By the way, what happened with your properties in Washington?

C.B.: The little money I have comes from selling Kalama. Today I regret it. I made a mistake allowing the sale.

VSD: How did this happen?

C.B.: I'm not very good at these kinds of things. David Seeley, one of the executors of the estate, sent me a power of attorney by express mail. I was at work and the courier was waiting. There was noise from the machines around me, and I couldn't understand anything David was telling me on the phone. I was in a hurry, and my boss was pressuring me to get back to work. I signed it in complete trust. What a fool I was!

Now I understand. I got taken advantage of. There was a conflict of interest: he couldn't be my lawyer and at the same time an executor of the estate.

VSD. What about the house on Wonderland Drive that your father bought for you when you came of age?

C. B. No, it was my mother, in accordance with a court decision during my parents' divorce. I haven't lived there since my incarceration in 1991. My father had put it in his name for administrative reasons.

It was confiscated from me.

But I'll get it back. And if that doesn't work, too bad!

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VSD: During the filming of Mutiny on the Bounty, your father falls in love with Tetiaroa, an atoll 35 km from Papeete, which he buys a few years later. He spent a fortune to preserve it. What will happen now?

C.B.: Impossible. The island was doomed to disappear. It was going to be swallowed by the waters, and with the extra weight of buildings… Why destroy something so precious and priceless? My father tried for twenty years to run a small eco-hotel and failed. So how will they succeed?

VSD: Will you oppose this project?

C.B.: How? Since my father's death, I haven't even been allowed into the house where I grew up to retrieve the toolbox I've had since I was 15. They threatened to call the police! They forbade me from sleeping there and stationed a security guard. Mike Medavoy told me a letter from my father to me had been found but refused to give it to me.

VSD: When you were summoned to retrieve your personal belongings, what happened?

C.B.: When they called us to collect our personal items, it was a total scramble, an aggressive fight for the objects—a foire d'empoigne. I felt ashamed of the scene, but I remained impassive and asked for nothing. I kept my dignity and self-respect. I was proud of myself for that.

# BRANDO'S SON HIDING IN HOMELESS SHELTER

GRIMY Christian Brando — the shelter in Longview, Wash.

THE ENQUIRER has tracked down Marlon Brando's troubled son Christian to a homeless shelter — and friends say he is hiding out while Robert Blake's attorneys do their best to point the finger of suspicion at him in the Bonny Lee Bakley murder.

Christian, 45, has been living for more than a month at the Community House in Longview, Wash., residing among street people.

He found out that when Blake goes on trial for Bonny's murder in February, his defense team is planning to introduce a witness who will attempt to implicate Brando.

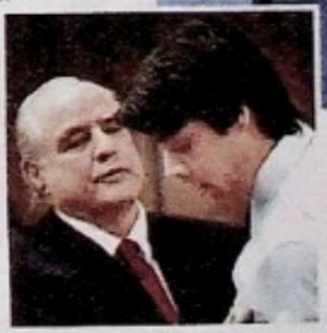
"I think Christian was badly unnerved, leading him to flee his Washington backwoods shack and take up residence at the homeless shelter," said a friend at the shelter.

Making his first public comments in more than five years, Christian told The ENQUIRER at the shelter that he had "absolutely nothing to do" with Bonny's murder.

"They are chasing ghosts.

"I've talked to the L.A. cops and I'm in the clear. I don't know why people keep trying to drag me into that mess.

"Bonny was a friend. I was sad when she was killed. But to say I had anything to do with it is ridiculous."



**FLASHBACK:** Christian with his famous dad.

Before her death, Brando had a brief romance with Bonny. When she became pregnant, she convinced Christian he was the father of her child. DNA testing later proved that Blake was the father.

As The ENQUIRER has reported, Blake's lawyers' "secret witness" Diane Mattson contends that she overheard Christian say Blake's wife should have a bullet put in her head.

And even though he insists he's innocent, Christian — who served five years in prison for the murder of his sister's lover Dag Drollet — is "haunted by the thought of going back to prison," said his friend.

"Christian's told me over and over again, 'They'll never get me back in a jail cell. I'd rather die. If they come

In 2002, NEW YORK POST Contacted Christian Brando through his lawyer after Bonny Bakely was murdered by her husband Robert Blake.

Christian told the newspaper:

"It's ..really bad, tragic," Brando told The NEW YORK Post yesterday of his ex-girlfriend's slaying. "I don't have any answers. It broke my heart. I couldn't believe it." Brando also said he hadn't spoken to Bakley in more than 18 months. "She was a nice lady," he said. "She was kind to me, and we used to have a lot of fun. "It's just a tragic thing, and I just feel bad. I don't feel that she had it coming like that."

A year later when Blake lawyers tried to implicate him , Christian told The ENQUIRER that he had "absolutely nothing to do with Bonny's murder:

"They are chasing ghosts. I've talked to the L.A. cops and I'm in the clear. I don't know why people keep trying to drag me into that mess. "Bonny was a friend. I was sad when she was killed. But to say I had anything to do with it is ridiculous."

*As Christian Brando left the courthouse during Bakley-Blake civil trial , he was asked by press whether he had any idea who may have killed Bakley. He shrugged, smiled and said, "probably sitting up in the room there".referring to Robert Blake who was still in the courtroom.

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**Christian Brando: Blake's going to be judged someplace else," he said.**

He repeated that he had nothing to do with Bakley's killing and said, "Mr. Blake's been pointing the finger at me."

Blake's lawyers had suggested Brando as a suspect in the 2001 slaying even though he was not arrested or charged.

During his testimony last October in the civil case, Brando repeatedly declined to answer key questions to protect himself from possible self-incrimination. Bakley, who had a relationship with Brando before she took up with Blake, initially named her daughter, now 5, after Brando. Tests later revealed that Blake was the girl's father.

Blake, star of the "Baretta" TV show, was acquitted last year in criminal court of murdering Bakley. However, the civil court jury ruled 10-2 that Blake intentionally caused Bakley's death, and awarded her children $30 million in damages. Civil trials do not require a unanimous verdict.

Brando could have received a five-day jail sentence in addition to the fine. The judge asked Brando whether he understood that what he did was wrong and he replied, "Absolutely."

"The court accepts Mr. Brando's apology but will impose a fine based on the jurors' testimony," Schacter said. He gave Brando 10 days to deliver $1,000 to the court.

Outside court, Brando was asked how he feels about Blake now.

"He's going to be judged someplace else," he said.

Superior Court Judge David M. Schacter said jurors told him

Brando mouthed words when he left the stand including "He did it" and an expletive.

"This interfered with the processes of the court," said Schacter. He ordered Brando to either defend himself or apologize.

"Your honor," Brando said, standing before the judge, "I deeply, deeply apologize for my conduct. This has been going on for five years. I had absolutely nothing to do with this. I meant no disrespect for your honor or the court. I have to watch my mouth."

Brando said when he testified he felt "overwhelmed."

"When I'm overwhelmed I lose it sometimes. I'm taking medication for that," he said.

He repeated that he had nothing to do with Bakley's killing and said, "Mr. Blake's been pointing the finger at me."

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(Associated Press PUBLISHED: May 27, 2006)

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# Brando's son rages over sale

**By TOM PARRY**

A FAMILY feud has erupted over the auction of Marlon Brando's personal property, it emerged last night.

The star's 47-year-old son Christian is furious about the way his father's estate has handled the sale – set for Christie's in New York on Thursday.

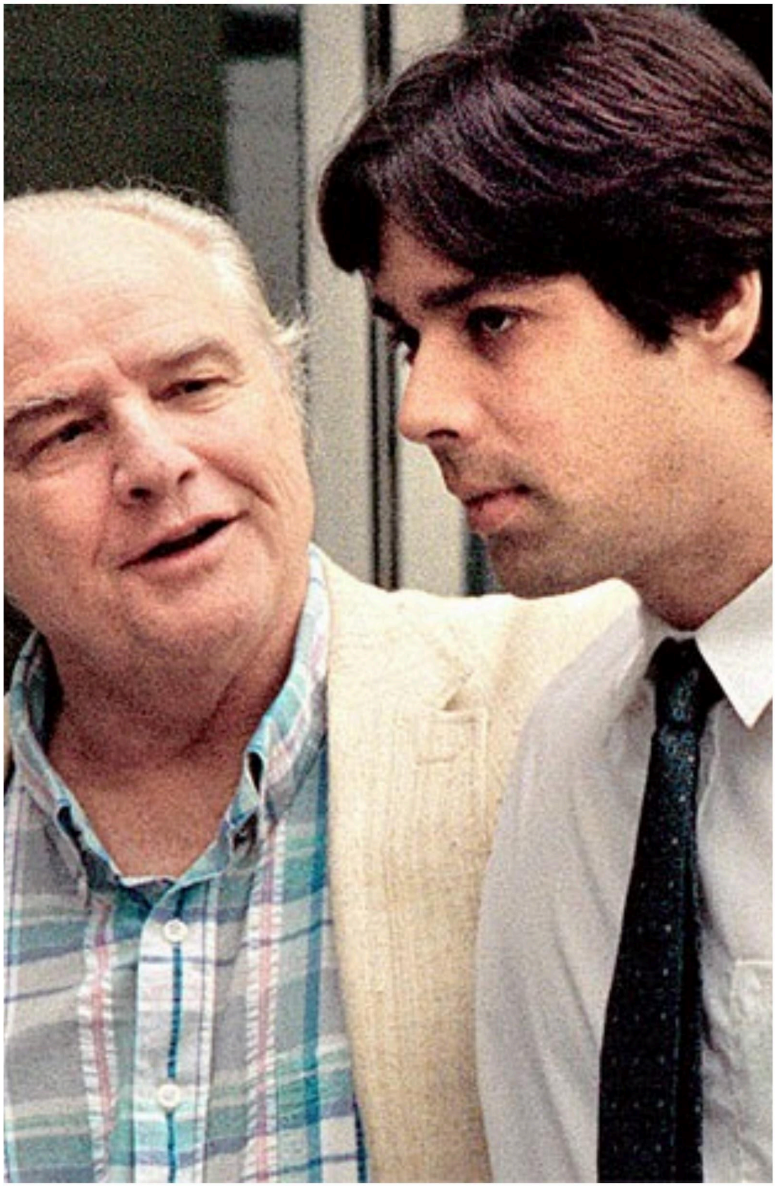
Christian, the eldest of Brando's 11 children, has already demanded a 14-carat gold St Christopher's medallion given to him by his mother be taken out of the auction.

His lawyer Theresa Bingham said: "There are many things I don't think his father wanted sold."

Christian, who was convicted of killing his sister's boyfriend in 1990, is reportedly after other lots, including his father's correspondence with Martin Luther King Jr.

But Estate lawyer Elizabeth Bawden insisted all beneficiaries were being treated equally and that they had "gone to great lengths" to ensure Christian was taken care of.

The Godfather star died last year aged 80.



The run up to the auction of legendary Marlon Brando's memorabilia had not been a smooth one with Brando's son Christian, 47, reportedly furious at the way Brando's estate has handled the sale. Christian's lawyer, Theresa Bingham, said her client believed many of the lots in the auction were items that the actor would never have wanted sold.

"There are many things I don't think his father wanted sold," Christian's lawyer, Theresa Bingham, told the New York Daily News. "Christie's got first pick of the art and memorabilia while his children were still grieving." "[The executors] are selling Brando's Medicare card - it's just too tacky," Bingham said.

# Family feud over 'tacky' sale of Brando's property

## A family feud has erupted over the auction of Marlon Brando's personal property, it emerged today.

Mon, 27 Jun, 2005 - 18:58

The screen legend's 47-year-old son Christian is said to be furious over the way Brando's estate has handled the sale, due to take place at Christie's in New York on Thursday.

"There are many things I don't think his father wanted sold," Christian's lawyer, Theresa Bingham, told the New York Daily News.

"Christie's got first pick of the art and memorabilia while his children were still grieving."

Bingham demanded that Christie's pull Lot 150 - a 14 carat gold St Christopher's medallion that Christian's mother, Anna Kashfi, had given her son.

The auction house confirmed the heirloom had been returned but Christian, who was convicted of killing his sister's boyfriend in 1990, is reportedly after other lots, including his father's correspondence with Martin Luther King Jr.

"(The executors) are selling Brando's Medicare card - it's just too



tacky," Bingham said.

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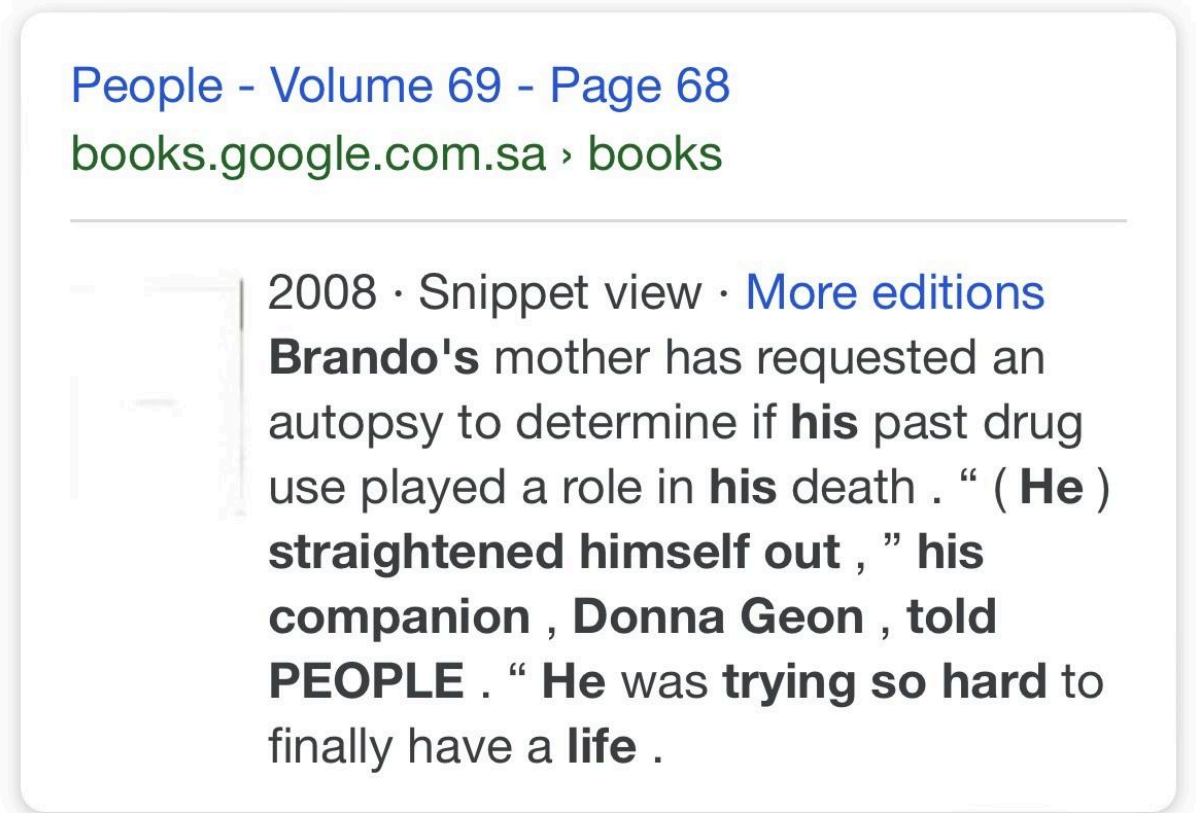
**Donna Geon: “Christian was trying so hard to finally have a lif**


People - Volume 69 - Page 68
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Brando's mother has requested an autopsy to determine if his past drug use played a role in his death . “ ( He ) straightened himself out , ” his companion , Donna Geon , told PEOPLE . “ He was trying so hard to finally have a life .

"Christian straightened himself out. He was trying so hard to finally have a life"

Donna Geon , his girlfriend for three years before his death, told PEOPLE magazine,  (Jan. 2008)

Christian Brando's girlfriend Donna Geon asserted to press that. "Christian was very upset about the death of his dad when we went to Marlon's former Mulholland Drive home in 2006 . (Daily News, Sep. 2006)

Donna Geon says Christian's wishes were "to be cremated and have his ashes spread in Franklin Park in Los Angeles, the same place his screen legend father, Marlon, had some of his ashes spread". (Page six , Jan 2008)

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**Brando: «This is how my son-in-law Dag died»**

Brando: «This is how my son-in-law Dag died» Los Angeles, the transcript of the interrogation to which the actor was subjected by the magistrate Brando:

«This is how my son-in-law Dag died» «I loved him, he was killed by mistake» Here are the main moments of the interrogation of Marion Brando, which took place on June 19 in Los Angeles, and collected by the French magazine «L'autre journal». Prosecutor Jessner: «Say your name and surname». «Brando Marion. I am Marion Brando. I was born Marion Brando junior, but I don't use the junior». Let's start from May 16, 1990. Is this the date of the shooting that implicates Christian Brando? «I don't remember. I assume that's the case». Do you know why Dag Drollet didn't go to eat with Christian Brando and Cheyenne Brando that evening? «As far as I know, Cheyenne and Dag had been arguing for a long time». Did you know that Cheyenne Brando had told the French authorities in Polynesia that Christian had taken a knife and a gun on his way home? "No." After the shooting, did you use the gun in any way? "He left the gun in front of me, I put the gun under the... I didn't know what to do. So I put it under the pillow." Did it occur to you at that moment that by putting the gun under the pillow, you would have erased the fingerprints? "No. That's an absurd statement because to erase the fingerprints you take a rag and rub the handle." Do you remember any insulting statements that Christian Brando may have made against Dag Drollet after the shooting? "Never. Yes, yes, I remember... I didn't know that Dag and Cheyenne had had arguments during which she had hit Dag and he had hit her. There was a lot of jealousy, and there was also something else, between them. And that's exactly what Cheyenne said to Christian during dinner. And the idea that his sister had been beaten by Dag while she was pregnant, or at any other time, exasperated him." Did you see your daughter Cheyenne after the gunshot? "Yes." Was she very upset at the time? "She didn't say anything, as far as I remember." Can you imagine why she didn't show any emotion? "Well, we were all in a state close to apoplexy, and no one knew what to think. She was crying, I was crying, Tarita was crying, everyone was crying. Christian was crying desperately." Did Cheyenne stay in hospital during her stay in France? "Yes." For what reason? "Cheyenne was under constant pressure after these events and attempted suicide twice. We spent some periods, by order and with the doctor's consent, in two places near Paris. We tried to keep them hidden so that we could have something resembling order in our lives, waiting for future developments. And all of a sudden I was faced with a police revolver and my daughter was saying, 'Dad, the police are here.' They were arresting her."Did you hear that your daughter Cheyenne said she was convinced that you were in cahoots with Christian, like in the movie "The Godfather"? "Yes." Can you explain to me what Cheyenne meant by that? "As I already explained, Cheyenne attempted suicide twice. Her mental state was

devastated. She was also under the influence of a lawyer we had a hard time getting rid of in Tahiti." Did you like Dag Drollet? "I loved him. When he was killed I was... I suffered a lot." Do you think the shooting was accidental? "Oh yes, I believe so. Yes, absolutely. And there is clear evidence that the court said it would not recognize and that the police refused to investigate. They spent two weeks with me. I was with them trying to find the bullet... and I found it, in a place that made the police theory unlikely." Where did you find the bullet, Mr. Brando? "I felt something in the carpet and I said to myself, 'Christ, it must be here.' I took a pocket knife, made a little hole and took out the bullet. I took forty-five photographs of that bullet. And so I did the first - as you call them - ballistics reports." Between loves and crimes, escapes and attempted suicides, after two and a half years of twists and turns, the "Brando affair" has perhaps reached a turning point. Marion, the great and controversial director of the affair involving his two children Christian and Cheyenne, has in fact decided to answer the questions of the magistrate of Papeete Jean Bernard Taliercio, through the California prosecutor Gregory W. Jessner, and to give his version of the facts. And so, in the words of the actor, that evening of May 17, 1990 resurfaces, when in the Brando villa in Santa Monica (California), Marion's son, Christian, shoots the partner of his half-sister Cheyenne, Dag Trollet. The man is 26 years old. Violent, he beats the girl even though she is pregnant. In February 1991, Christian, a self-confessed criminal, is sentenced to 10 years in prison. Cheyenne is suspected of complicity: described by doctors as "psychopathic, irascible, proud and a mythomaniac", after having attempted suicide twice, she is hospitalized in a clinic in France, until her father arrives from Belgium. The two flee together. It is October 1991. Fifteen days later they are found. At that point, Cheyenne accuses her father: "He is Christian's accomplice in the murder of my lover, because he was jealous of me". And the Brando lawyer, Jacques Maitre Verges, known for having also defended the Nazi Klaus Barbie, abandons his clients in despair. Now, after a year, the clan seems to have returned to peace: Cheyenne, released from prison, lives near her father in Santa Monica. Everyone is waiting for the decision of the French judges and hopes for a "no case to answer". [r. [sU.] «The idea that Cheyenne's partner had beaten her while she was pregnant exasperated Christian.After the murder we were all shocked, but she thought I was complicit like in the movie The Godfather" Marion Brando in tears while recalling the events of the night her daughter Cheyenne's partner was killed (above) Top right, the actor's wife Tarila Marion Brando with her lawyer Robert Shapiro Below, with her son Christian, who confessed to the murder.

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■ "Christian was a fascinating person and pretty cool guy"( Actor Michael Madsen )

■ Christian was very handsome, He had his father's Charisma ". (Actress Anjelica Huston)

■ "He was very funny .. incredibly handsome and a sardonic wiseacre".

(Actress Laureen Landon)

■ "He was a charming and very handsome young man".

(British director Michael Winner)

■ "Christian was a doll-handsome and sexy like his dad" (Cassandra Peterson, Elvira)

■ "Christian was such a beautiful boy, He had Anna's dark, vivid eyes".

(Actor and director George Englund)

■ "Darkly handsome, and one of the sweetest lost souls I'd ever met."

(People magazine journalist Champ Clark)

▪ "He's such a sweet person, so giving. kind and generous. He's always trying to please people."

( Actress and make up artist: Joycelyn Lew)

▪Actress Edy Williams: Christian Brando was Highly NIAVE, adored dad "POPS! was always denied an "allowance so spent fishing WORK in: ALASKA! Loved his good heart! Yours Edy Williams

▪(Former Actress Mina Martell )

Marlon was very caring. I remember when he introduced me to Christian....a very nice young man... Marlon and I spent time with him...he was most interested in what Christian had to say and relished in the stories Christian would relay to us.

▪(Singer Felicity Pringle)

I knew Christian and met him at his Fathers house where he was living as a teenager

He was very sweet

Soft spoken

Kind

Thoughtful

Well mannered

His father was lovely to me

▪(Director Jackie Kong, a family friend ):

Who recognized Christian's natural talent as an actor : "Christian was a natural. Of all the kids, he should have been an actor."

On her Facebook account through out the years she( jackiekong_director) wrote:

*Thinking of Christian whose Bday just went by a few days ago. He always called me "Big Jack"… Miss this boy who could always make me laugh. He never grew up, always the same sense of humor we had as kids. Here we are posing on his motorcycle at his house (the highest point in the Hollywood Hills). #littlebrotherlove

*Miss this boy. No one could make me laugh like Christian.

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